

Shahabad.—No rain. Weather hot. Threshing of *rabi* continues. Sowing of *china* going on. Cattle-disease reported from one village in Sasaram. Fodder and water sufficient. Prices stationary.

Saran.—Weather seasonable. Threshing of *rabi* crops almost finished. *China* and indigo doing well. Fodder and water sufficient. Average prices are—common rice 12 seers 14 chittacks and *makai* 21 seers 6 chittacks, against 9 seers 2 chittacks and 10 seers 1 chittak respectively last year.

Champaran.—Rainfall at Motihari .91, Bettiah .52, Barharwa .07, Bagaha 1.39, Ramnagar 1.61. Weather getting warm. Some rain this week. Harvesting of *rabi* almost over. Lands are being prepared for *bhadoi* and *aghani*. The rain has much improved the prospects of *china* and indigo. Common rice and maize sell at Sadar at 12½ and 21 seers respectively, against an average 14½ and 20½ seers.

Muzaffarpur.—Rainfall at Sadar .67. Threshing of *rabi* crops still going on. Paddy, *mung* and *china* already sown are coming up well. Prices are—common rice 10 to 13 seers, wheat 14 seers, barley 23 seers, *makai* 20 seers, gram 17 seers, and *rahar* 20 seers, per rupee.

Darbhanga.—Rainfall at Sadar 1.14, Samastipur .15, Madhubani .83. Weather cloudy with east wind. Harvesting of *rabi* crops completed. Sowing of early paddy and *mung* going on. Rain has done much good. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells at 11 seers per rupee at Sadar.

Monghyr.—Rainfall at Sadar .65. Weather hot with westerly wind. Harvesting of *rabi* completed; outturn favourable. *Mahua* flowers being gathered. Mango prospects good. Cattle-disease called *khooraha* or *bhangha* reported from several villages in the Beguserai subdivision. Rice sells as follows:—

Sadar	...	...	...	12 to 15 seers per rupee.
Begusarai	...	...	...	11 to 13 „ „
Jamui	...	...	...	13 „ „

Bhagalpur.—Rainfall at Sadar .66. Weather much cooled down by the recent rain. Harvesting of *rabi* crops approaching completion. *Mahua* being gathered in Banka. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells at 13 seers 14 chittacks per rupee at Sadar.

Purnea.—Rainfall at Sadar .99, Kishanganj 2.65, Araria 1.03. *Rabi* crops being harvested; outturn fair. Ploughing going on for *bhadoi* crops. A few cases of cattle-pox still reported from Araria subdivision. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling as follows:—

Sadar	...	...	...	15 seers per rupee.
Kishanganj	...	...	...	15 to 16 „ „
Araria	...	...	...	16 „ „

Malda.—Rainfall at Sadar 1.45. Weather a little cooler since Saturday, 16th. Much good has been done by the rain. Ploughing and sowing of *bhadoi* crops going on. Ordinary rice selling at 14 seers a rupee. Drinking-water sufficient.

Sonthal Parganas.—Slight rain at Deoghur. *Mahua* being gathered; generally good crop. Rain wanted for sugarcane and mangoes. Fodder and water becoming scarce. Some cattle-disease in Deoghur and Jamtara. Price of common rice 13 to 14½ seers, and of maize 17 to 21 seers per rupee.

Cuttack.—Rainfall at Jajpur .02, Banki .13. Weather hot. *Dalua* ripening and being harvested in places. New sugarcane being planted. Tobacco being gathered. Condition of cattle generally good. Fodder sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs. ch.	
Cuttack	15 2	} per rupee.
Jajpur	...	...	...	18 6
Kendrapara	...	...	...	18 6
Banki	...	...	...	16 13

Balasore.—Rainfall at Sadar 1.80. Threshing of *sarad* continues. *Dalua* being harvested. Cotton and sugarcane growing well. Price of rice varies from 14 to 19 seers per rupee in the interior. Rice sells at 14 and 18 seers per rupee at Balasore and Bhadrak respectively. Fodder and water sufficient.

Angul.—Rainfall at Angul .61. Weather hot. Price of common rice stationary as in last week.

"That he said with our detailed proposals before him. I am quite content to rest upon that, and to leave the Bill in the hands of the Council, feeling quite safe regarding its fate in the hands of my Successor.

"I want now to say one word with reference to Bombay. We are not in a position to criticise the Bombay arrangements. My information leads me to confirm what the Hon'ble Mr. Risley has said, namely, that whoever is to blame for any breakdown that may have occurred or have been thought to have occurred in those arrangements, it was not the Municipal Commissioner or the Municipal Corporation who are to blame. Quotations have been made from popular authorities in regard to the provisions of this Bill and as to the subordination of municipal authorities to one another; that was a point which was settled in Lord Reay's excellent speech in winding up the debate in his Council, but I find that the one thing Mr. Tilang (who has been quoted against us) insisted upon was the absolute necessity of one governing spirit ruling the whole of the Municipal Administration, and he preferred giving powers to the Municipal Commissioner rather than to Executive Committees. We have sought to secure the one governing spirit in the Chairman while associating with him experienced Members of the Corporation as advisers and guides.

"In respect of the Corporation itself, the Bill follows the principle laid down by Lord Reay. The Corporation is given those powers which can properly be exercised by large deliberative assemblies. The Committee is given the special control which cannot well be exercised by the larger body. The Chairman is given and must be given the power of conducting Executive operations, the every-day work of the City, without minute interference, which can only do harm and has done much harm in the past. As Lord Reay said:— 'The functions of a representative assembly such as the Corporation are those of superintendence and check. Administrative work can only be done by those who are trained to it.' A clear separation of functions on these lines is the essential principle of this Bill; and I hope when the Select Committee has the Bill before them they will carefully consider the representations which may be received from the local bodies who have been addressed on the subject of this Bill, and will see their way to carry out the cardinal principle of the Bill which will be affirmed by the vote which will be taken to-day. If they recognise that the majority is against them, I hope they will not deprive the Committee of the benefit of their experience. I hope they will help the Government to carry out its own proposals in the best way, although from their point of view they may not consider them the best. I hope they will approach the subject in Committee in a fair and reasonable and statesmanlike spirit."

The Motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee being put, the Council divided:—

Ayes 12.

Hon'ble Mr. Spink.
Hon'ble Mr. Turner.
Hon'ble Sahibzada.
Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah.
Hon'ble Mr. Buckley.
Hon'ble Mr. Oldham.
Hon'ble Mr. Finucane.
Hon'ble Nawab Syud Ameer Hossein.
The Hon'ble Mr. Pratt.
Hon'ble Rai Durga Gati Banerjee Bahadur.
Hon'ble Mr. Risley.
Hon'ble Mr. Grimley.
Hon'ble the President.

Noes 4.

Hon'ble Babu Jatra Mohan Sen.
Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee.
Hon'ble Babu Kali Charan Banerjee.
Hon'ble Babu Norendra Nath Sen.

So the Motion was carried.

The Council adjourned to Saturday, the 16th instant.

CALCUTTA;
The 3rd May, 1898.

F. G. WIGLEY,

Offg. Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal,
Legislative Department.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

For the week ending the 2nd May 1898.

Burdwan.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot. Rain wanted for ploughing and for sowing *aus* paddy. Fields being manured. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling as follows:—

				Srs.	
Sadar	13 to 16	} per rupee.
Kalna	...	...	...	13 to 13 $\frac{5}{8}$
Katwa	...	...	...	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Raniganj	...	...	...	14

Birbhum.—Rainfall nil. Weather very hot. Rain wanted. Prospect of *til* crop favourable. Manuring of fields still going on. Prices of rice—

Sadar—12·12 seers per rupee.
Rampur Hât 13·14 seers per rupee.

Fodder sufficient.

Bankura.—No rain. Weather hot and occasionally cloudy. Transplantation of sugar cane progressing. Fodder and water sufficient. No cattle-disease. Price of common rice at Bankura and Vishnupur 15 seers per rupee.

Midnapore.—No rain. Prospects of *boro* paddy, indigo, sugarcane and *til* good. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.	
Sadar	12	} per rupee.
Contai	...	...	...	14 to 15
Tamluk	...	...	...	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ghatal	...	...	...	13

Hooghly.—No rain. Rain badly wanted. Cattle-disease in Dadpur and Polba thanas. Common rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Howrah.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot with strong south-easterly wind. Harvesting of *boro* paddy at Uluberia still continues. Rain wanted. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells at 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

24-Parganas.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot and windy. No crops on the ground. Rain is badly wanted for tillage of lands. A few cases of cattle-disease reported from Mathurapur. Scarcity of water reported from some places in Basirhat. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.	
Sadar	10 to 13	} per rupee.
Basirhat	...	...	...	13
Barasat	...	...	...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Diamond Harbour	...	...	...	12

Nadia.—Rainfall nil. Sowing of *bhadoi*, jute, and sugarcane going on. Rain very badly wanted for sowing of *aus*. Common rice selling at 11 to 14 seers per rupee. Fodder insufficient in places. Water sufficient. No cattle-disease.

Murshidabad.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot. Lands are being prepared for *aus*, *aman* and jute cultivation. Plantation of sugarcane continues. Rain much wanted for cultivation purposes. Fodder sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.	
Sadar	...	...	...	12	} per rupee.
Kandi	...	...	...	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Jangipur	...	...	...	14	

Jessore.—No rain. Weather very sultry. Ploughing and sowing retarded for want of rain. Rain badly wanted. No report of cattle-disease. Fodder reported to be insufficient, and water somewhat scarce in places in the Jhenida subdivision. Price of common rice stationary.

Khulna.—No rain. Weather hot and windy. Harvesting of *boro* paddy and cultivation of *aus* paddy commenced. Fodder and water available. Cattle-disease reported from thana Baitagnata. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs.	
Sadar	...	...	...	...	11 to 13
Satkhirā	...	...	...	...	11½
Bagerhat	...	...	...	...	12
					} per rupee.

Rajshahi.—No rain. Weather very hot. Prospects of crops good. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water ample. Rice sells from 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Dinajpur.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Sowing of *bhadoi* paddy and jute going on. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice selling at 14 seers per rupee.

Jalpaiguri.—Rainfall at Sadar 11, Alipur Duars 7.31. Weather cloudy and hot. Sowing of *bhadoi* paddy and jute continues. No want of fodder and drinking-water. Common rice sells from 11 to 15 seers per rupee.

Darjeeling.—Rainfall at Darjeeling 7.0, Siliguri 2.43. Weather seasonable. *Hills*—*Bhadoi* and potatoes progressing. *Terai*—Sowing of *bhadoi*, jute and sugarcane going on. Coarse rice sells as follows:—

Hills—9 to 11 seers per rupee.

Terai—12 to 16 „ „ „

Bhutia sells from 16 to 30 seers per rupee.

Rangpur.—No rain. Sowing of *aus* and jute continues. Harvesting of tobacco proceeding. Prospects good. Common rice selling at 12 to 15 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient. Good drinking-water reported scarce in places in Gaibanda.

Bogra.—Rainfall nil. Sowing of jute and *aus* continues. Fodder and water ample except in thana Dhunote. Common rice selling from 11½ to 14½ seers per rupee.

Pabna.—No rain. Weather partially cloudy and hot. Crop prospects good. Ploughing going on everywhere. Price of rice 10 to 12 seers per rupee. Fodder sufficient.

Dacca.—Rainfall nil. Weather very hot. Harvesting of *boro* proceeding. Fodder available. No cattle-disease. Want of good drinking-water in the interior. Common rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Mymensingh.—Rainfall at Jamalpur 8.60. Weather cloudy and close. Sowing of paddy and jute nearly completed. Rain badly wanted. Supply of water insufficient. Common rice 10 to 12 seers per rupee.

Faridpur.—No rain. Weather very hot and windy. Rain wanted for sowing of *aus* and *aman* paddy. Prospects of *aus* unfavourable for want of rain. *Boro* paddy being reaped. Rice sells at 10 seers per rupee. Fodder and water available for the present. No cattle-disease.

Backergunge.—Rainfall nil. Weather hot. Rain wanted for crops. Common rice sells from 8 to 13 seers per rupee.

Tippera.—No rain. Weather very hot. Sowing of paddy and jute started in places. Scarcity of water reported. Fodder sufficient. Price of rice from 11 to 12½ seers per rupee.

Noakhali.—No rain. Sowing of *aus* commenced. Prospects not good. Rain much wanted. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water insufficient. Common rice selling at 10 to 13 seers per rupee.

Chittagong.—No rain. Days and nights very hot; mornings pleasant. *Rabi* harvesting still continues. Outturn below the average. Rain wanted. Rice selling at 11 seers per rupee.

Patna.—No rain. *Rabi* harvest almost finished. Sugarcane doing well. Prices stationary. In Patna common rice selling at 15 seers per rupee. Fodder and water for cattle sufficient.

Gaya.—No rain. Prospects good. Sugarcane and *china* doing well. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice sells at 13 seers, barley 20 seers, wheat 13 seers, gram 17 seers, and *arhar* 18 seers per rupee.

Shahabad.—No rain. Weather hot. Threshing of *rabi* continues. Sugarcane and *china* doing well. Cattle-disease reported from some places in Sasaram. Fodder and water sufficient.

Saran.—No rain. Weather seasonable. *China* and indigo crops good. Preparation for *bhadoi* sowing continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Average prices are—common rice 12·6 seers and *makai* 20·14 seers, against 8·15 seers and 10·2 seers per rupee respectively last year.

Champaran.—No rain. *Bhadoi* and *aghani* being sown. Land being also prepared. Common rice and maize sell at Sadar at 12 and 22 seers per rupee respectively, against average 15 and 20½ seers.

Muzaffarpur.—No rain. Prospects good. Prices are—common rice 10 to 13 seers, wheat 14 seers, barley 23 seers, *makai* 19 seers, gram 16 to 17 seers, and *arhar* 20 seers per rupee.

Monghyr.—No rain. Weather hot. Threshing of *rabi* crops not yet finished. Cattle-disease reported from Ballia and Tegra thanas in the Begusarai subdivision. Common rice sells as follows:—

Monghyr	...	...	...	11½ to 13 seers per rupee.
Begusarai	...	...	...	12 to 13 " "
Jamui	...	...	...	13 " "

Bhagalpur.—No rain. Weather very hot. Rain urgently needed for ploughing. *Rabi* harvest over. *Mango* crop promises well. *Mahua* gathering continues in Banka. Stray cases of cattle-disease reported from Banka and Supaul subdivisions. Price of common rice stationary.

Purnea.—No rain. Harvesting of *rabi* crops nearly over. Sowing of jute and *bhadoi* paddy commenced. Prospects favourable. A few cases of cattle-pox reported from Matari and Raniganj in the Araria subdivision. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling as follows:—

Sadar	...	...	...	15 seers per rupee.
Araria	...	...	...	15 " "
Kishanganj	...	...	...	15 to 16 " "

Malda.—Rainfall nil. Weather very hot. Threshing of *rabi* crops almost finished. Ploughing and sowing of *bhadoi* crops retarded for want of rain. *Mango* promises well. Ordinary rice selling at 13 seers per rupee. Fodder sufficient.

Sonthal Parganas.—Rainfall nil. Rain wanted for sugarcane and also to replenish fodder and water-supply. Price of rice 13 to 14½ seers, and of maize 16 to 21 seers per rupee.

Cuttack.—No rain. *Dalua* ripening and being harvested in places. New sugarcane being planted. Tobacco being gathered. Condition of cattle generally good. Fodder sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

				Srs. ch.	
Cuttack	13 13	} per rupee.
Jajpur	...	...	...	17 1
Kendrapara	...	...	...	18 6
Banki	...	...	...	16 13

Balasore.—Rainfall nil. Sugarcane growing well. Cotton flowering. *Dalua* being harvested. Ploughing continues. Price of rice varies from 13 to 19 seers per rupee in the interior. Rice sells at 13 and 16 seers per rupee at Balasore and Bhadrak respectively. Fodder and water sufficient.

Angul.—No rain. Weather hot. No crops on the ground except sugarcane. Fodder and water available. Cattle-disease abating. Price of common rice stationary.

Puri.—No rain. *Dalua* paddy being reaped. *Mung* being harvested. State of sugarcane, cotton, and other miscellaneous crops generally good. Lands being ploughed and manured for next *sarad* crop. Cattle-disease not reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Price of common rice almost stationary.

Hazaribagh.—No rain. Weather very hot. Conditions favourable for mango crop. Rice sells at 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Lohardaga.—No rain. *Mahua* gathering finished. Prospect of mango good. Rice sells at Ranchi 12 seers, and in the interior from 12 to 16 seers per rupee. Cattle-disease continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Grain in stock sufficient.

Palamanu.—Rainfall nil. Weather very hot. *Rabi* and *mahua* harvests over with 12 and 9 annas outturn respectively. *China* being reaped. Sugarcane and *tewa dhan* doing well. Rice selling at 13 seers per rupee. Water and fodder sufficient.

Manbhum.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops good. Cattle-disease not reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Average price of common rice at Sadar 14½ seers and at Gobindpur 13 seers per rupee. Supply sufficient.

Singhbhum.—Rainfall nil. Rice plentiful, and the price is from 12 to 16 seers per rupee.

General Summary.—There was rain in Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling and in parts of Mymensingh during the week. Rain is generally required, and in some parts the cultivation of early rice and jute is being retarded for want of moisture. Young sugarcane, indigo and *china* millet are doing well. The harvesting of spring rice continues. Prices remain steady. Cattle-disease continues in Lohardaga, but is abating in Angul. Cases are reported from Hooghly, the 24-Parganas, Khulna, Shahabad, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, and Purnea. Insufficiency of fodder-supply is reported from places in Nadia, Jessore, Bogra, and Noakhali, and of water-supply in these places and also in places in the 24-Parganas, Rangpur, Dacca, Mymensingh and Tippera.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

The 3rd May 1898.

M. FINUCANE,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

I.
IMPORTS INTO CALCUTTA.
The following Statement shows the Quantities of the Principal Staples of the Interior by Rail, Road, River (Country-boat and Steamer), and Canal during the month of January 1898.

Whence imported.	FOOD-GRAINS.										FIBROUS PRODUCTS.				OIL-SEEDS.		Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	Coal and coke.	Indigo.	SUGAR.		Unmanufactured.	Manufactured.					
	RICE AND PADDY.		Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags,†	Linseed.	Mustard seed.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.						Mds.	Mds.			Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	
	Rice.	Paddy.																												Total (in rice).
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
BENGAL.																														
Burdwan	1,95,104	18,203	2,06,481		2,727	1,266	2,10,474	709	17,155	242	168		33	4	28,01,099	19														
Birbhum	1,73,837		1,73,837		58		1,73,837	590	10,130				19	119		36														
Midnapore	1,91,751	17,698	2,02,793		2,058		2,02,793	335	5,933				78	151	10,273	26														
Hooghly	1,36,116	28,547	1,63,963		746		1,63,963	1,98,083	193,096	2,613	297		2		2,172															
24 Parganas	5,51,664	67,777	6,19,441		753		6,19,441	1,86,627	645,774	5			621		5,865															
Nadia	23,015	1,125	23,718		82,692	1,734	1,08,317	1,34,663	3,906	12,712	5,387		36		177															
Murshidabad	18,698	6,725	22,901		13,633		28,523	21,468	1,455	2,760			14		2,538															
Jessore	18,698	6,725	22,901		13,633		28,523	21,468	1,455	2,760			14		2,538															
Khulna	7,757	7,825	15,582		3,514	1,07	19,618	80,850	245	105																				
Rajshahi	134		134		1,741	43	1,918	53,721	216,370																					
Dinajpur	101		101				101	17,390	50,855																					
Jalpaiguri	672		672				672	2,31,510	4,615																					
Darjeeling	1,405		1,405		90		1,495	41,751	10,325																					
Bagur	1,295		1,295		140		1,435	3,14,883	10,325																					
Pabna	1,405		1,405		380		1,785	8,05,516	455	12																				
Cooch Behar	1,295		1,295		380		1,675	8,05,516	455	12																				
Dacca	1,295		1,295		380		1,675	8,05,516	455	12																				
Mymensingh	4,425	550	4,975		1,491		6,260	2,86,442	385																					
Faridpur	7,08,203	1,850	7,09,353		101		7,09,460	1,89,515	7,560	812																				
Backergunge	6,107		6,107				6,107	13,119																						
Tripura	12,623	200	12,823				12,648	25,545																						
Noakhali	1,376		1,376				1,376	4,400																						
Obttagong																														
Total of Bengal	20,90,931	1,40,522	21,75,757	296	1,10,372	3,215	22,92,630	27,40,188	1,923,964	19,598	10,594	15,481	4,341	1,933	28,82,967	601	5,409	91,464	18,768	2,857	3,448	1,281	623	1,281						
BIHAR.																														
Patna	1,435		1,435		23,508	2,510	27,493		1,400	43,903	4,196																			
Gaya					1,943		1,943		2,695	3,408																				
Shahabad					4,445		4,445		1,505	5,228																				
Saran					271		271		1,050	6,892	87																			
Chhapra					315		315		1,050	6,892	87																			
Muzaffarpur					287		287		1,050	6,892	87																			
Darbhanga					325		325		1,050	6,892	87																			
Mooshyr					349		349		1,050	6,892	87																			
Bhagalpur					418		418		1,050	6,892	87																			
Purnea					1,455		1,455		1,050	6,892	87																			
Malda					1,138		1,138		1,050	6,892	87																			
Sonhal Parganas					5,545		5,545		1,050	6,892	87																			
Total of Bihar	26,480		26,480	6,770	96,038	19,389	1,48,068	1,43,251	49,840	1,06,223	72,576																			

* One munda of paddy is equivalent to 25 seers of rice.

† Exclusive of bags obtained by local manufacture.

Whence imported.	FOOD-GRAINS.								FIBROUS PRODUCTS.		OIL-SEEDS.		Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	Coal and coke.	Indigo.	SUGAR.		TOBACCO.	
	RICE AND PADDY.			Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags,†	Linseed.	Mustard seed.	Refined.						Unrefined.	Unmanufactured.	Manufactured.	
	Rice.	Paddy.	Total (in rice).																		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
ORISSA.																					
Cuttack	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	
Balasore	620	18,794	1,19,073	1,079	482	385	1,079	385	1,600	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	
Total of Orissa	1,07,947	18,794	1,19,093	1,21,278	1,485	840	1,21,278	840	1,600	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	
CHOTA NAGPUR.																					
Hazaribagh	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	
Manbhum	5,072	1,250	5,072	4,348	521	5,393	5,393	5,393	1,715	339	1,779	187	187	343	1,47,185	2	343	15,05,136	1,47,185	15,05,136	
Singbhum	1,250	6,322	1,250	1,250	4,869	11,191	11,191	11,191	1,820	339	3,009	194	194	343	16,52,321	9	343	16,52,321	16,52,321	16,52,321	
Total of Chota Nagpur.	6,322	1,53,316	53,31,343	7,055	2,12,864	22,505	25,73,767	29,10,369	12,77,224	1,36,160	87,123	15,675	4,341	1,569	45,34,688	8,806	5,463	1,15,041	22,468	4,085	
Grand Total of supplies from the Provinces under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.	22,31,650	1,53,316	23,81,343	7,055	2,12,864	22,505	25,73,767	29,10,369	12,77,224	1,36,160	87,123	15,675	4,341	1,569	45,34,688	8,806	5,463	1,15,041	22,468	4,085	
OTHER PROVINCES.																					
Assam	917	64	917	1,88,360	40,594	4,256	917	14,562	875	33,643	27,068	71,478	1,769	247	5,393	5,393	5,393	5,393	5,393	5,393	
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	64	104	104	7,502	14,081	5,387	27,877	...	1,750	13,434	13,434	139	33,931	3	1,156	1,156	1,156	1,156	1,156	1,156	
Punjab	7	7	7	7,502	14,081	5,387	27,877	...	...	339	339	154	5,560	3	688	688	688	688	688	688
Central Provinces and Rajputana and Central India.	5,756	...	5,756	...	2,216	436	2,652	...	...	27	455	154	1,015	...	1,161	1,161	1,161	1,161	1,161	1,161
Berar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bombay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Madras	30	...	30	...	1,004	...	1,034	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Burma	47,537	...	47,537	...	...	...	47,537	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other places	46	...	46	...	18	...	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grand Total of imports of January 1897.	22,36,037	1,89,380	23,85,649	2,62,918	2,72,616	32,674	28,93,857	29,24,871	13,35,389	1,59,890	1,29,557	87,437	66,965	1,820	45,35,677	14,199	2,44,643	1,29,800	22,672	4,643	
	26,54,276	2,63,598	28,19,024	80,846	3,08,093	13,877	32,81,805	15,36,744	828,543	96,245	1,21,289	97,094	1,05,034	1,898	38,20,958	17,449	87,923	1,16,246	24,631	5,934	

* One maund of paddy is equivalent to 25 seers of rice.

† Exclusive of bags obtained by local manufacture.

II.

The Sea-borne Trade of Calcutta in these Staples during the month of January 1898 was as follows:—

EXPORTED FROM CALCUTTA.	Rice.	Paddy.	Total (in rice).	Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags.	Linseed.	Mustard seed.	Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	SUGAR.		
															Refined.	Unrefined.	Unmanufactured.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
To Indian ports, viz.—	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Bombay ...	30,011	30	30,029	20	60	20	30,129	2,431	910,600	2,724	.....	2,459	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other ports in Bombay ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8,650	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Madras ...	64,080	.....	64,080	353	10,929	4,763	86,723	.....	147,150	.....	39	33	.....	15	10	.....	.....
Other ports in Madras ...	69,083	3,005	70,961	348	719	.....	72,028	27	412,500	.....	3,894	7	.....	5	848	52	.....
Burma ...	1,646	.....	1,646	5,318	14,406	2,703	24,073	274	4,186,000	39	10	128	240	13	467	143	7,222
Other Indian ports ...	3,401	.....	3,401	1,233	2,406	20	7,060	54	167,725	.....	.....	1	.....	12	4,155	4,325	1,838
Pondicherry ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	17,300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total of Inter-port trade ...	1,68,821	3,035	1,70,717	7,272	34,520	7,506	2,20,015	2,786	5,849,925	2,763	3,943	2,628	240	45	5,480	4,530	8,152
To Foreign ports—																	
United Kingdom ...	1,06,127	10	1,06,133	.....	1,228	.....	1,07,361	3,48,704	3,634,380	2,24,421	30,956	1,25,560	660	1,391	90	.....	.....
Other Foreign ports ...	11,08,717	2,253	11,10,125	640	15,653	1,960	11,28,378	18,57,429	15,076,780	44,553	99,384	3,494	17,608	469	117	.....	1,407
Total of Foreign trade ...	12,14,844	2,263	12,16,258	640	16,881	1,960	12,35,739	22,06,133	18,711,110	2,68,974	1,30,340	1,29,054	16,168	1,860	216	.....	1,407
Grand Total of Exports in Jan. 1898	13,83,665	5,298	13,86,975	7,912	51,401	9,466	14,55,754	22,08,919	24,561,035	2,71,737	1,34,283	1,31,682	18,417	1,905	5,696	4,530	10,559
1897	6,12,845	39	5,12,669	1,820	40,332	509	5,55,330	9,17,688	23,888,920	33,067	8,244	1,21,246	58,339	1,367	6,809	2,991	6,407

III.

IMPORTS INTO CALCUTTA.

The following Statement shows the several Routes followed by the Trade in the Principal Staples of Traffic imported into Calcutta during the month of January 1898.

SPECIFICATION OF ROUTES.	FOOD-GRAINS.					FIBROUS PRODUCTS.		OILSEEDS.		Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	Coal and Coke.	Indigo.	SUGAR.		Value in Rs.
	Rice.	Paddy.	Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags.	Linseed.	Mustard seed.						Re-fined.	Un-refined.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
By country boats ...	13,84,117	1,01,401	247	32,751	5	7,62,484	571,164	11,502	9,483	.....	3,106	25	13,430	121	1,206	26,768	4,30,000
„ river steamers ...	2,464	648	.....	7,270	1,266	9,00,168	6,720	259	29,438	71,517	547	873	2,858	...	6	17	1,10,000
„ rail { R. I. Railway	4,3,796	26,015	2,02,632	1,75,663	29,459	2,32,098	86,415	1,41,739	87,751	478	50,711	1,148	45,13,426	13,852	.....	29,796	2,10,000
„ rail { E. B. S. Rail- way.	4,4,210	131	.....	53,573	1,944	8,64,563	481,665	6,330	2,841	14,858	814	273	.....	226	.....	6,900	6,00,000
„ road ...	2,2,234	16,048	39	1,211	.....	1,65,196	131,200	.....	.....	.....	222	...	4,880	...	4,257	53,071	4,00,000
„ sea ...	4,5,216	15,137	.....	2,148	.....	362	58,225	.....	44	584	11,855	...	1,089	...	2,39,174	8,538	8,00,000
Grand Total of Imports in { 1898	22,84,037	1,59,380	2,02,918	2,72,616	32,674	29,24,871	1,335,280	1,59,830	1,29,557	87,437	66,955	1,820	45,35,677	14,199	2,44,643	1,29,800	22,80,000
January. { 1897	26,54,276	2,63,598	80,946	3,68,058	13,877	15,36,744	828,543	96,245	1,21,289	97,094	1,05,034	1,898	36,29,966	17,449	87,923	1,16,240	26,50,000

Results of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory from
24th to 30th April 1898.

Month.	Date.	Maximum in sun.	Number of hours of bright sunshine.	Mean pressure barometer at 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.				HYGROMETRY.				WIND.		Rain.	WEATHER.	
					Mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Mean wet bulb.	Vapour tension.	Dew point.	Humidity.	Prevailing direction.	Miles recorded.			
1898.		°		Inches.	°	°	°	°	°	Inches	°	%			Inches.		
April	24th	148.7	10.9	29.731	85.9	94.1	15.1	79.0	79.4	0.917	76.6	74	SSW	...	187	Nil	Chiefly clear.
"	25th	149.4	10.2	.654	87.0	95.7	15.1	80.6	80.1	.935	77.2	72	SSW	...	248	"	Chiefly clear.
"	26th	148.3	10.6	.629	86.8	93.4	12.2	81.2	80.0	.933	77.1	73	SSW and S by W		264	"	Chiefly clear.
"	27th	148.5	10.1	.663	87.4	94.2	13.2	81.0	80.3	.940	77.3	72	SSW and S	...	251	"	Partially cloudy.
"	28th	148.7	9.9	.655	87.2	93.4	11.9	81.5	80.5	.952	77.7	74	SSW	...	297	"	Partially cloudy.
"	29th	148.7	9.6	.663	87.8	95.2	12.9	82.3	80.4	.939	77.3	71	SSW	...	280	"	Partially cloudy.
"	30th	149.8	9.8	.671	88.2	95.9	13.8	82.1	80.4	.934	77.2	70	SSW and S by E		216	"	Partially cloudy.

The mean pressure of the seven days 29.667
 The average pressure of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 29.723

The total number of hours of bright sunshine 71.1
 The maximum possible number of hours of sunshine 90.0

The mean temperature of the seven days 87.2

The average temperature of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 85.0

The extreme variation of temperature 16.9

The maximum temperature 95.9

The highest velocity of the wind in one hour 20

The mean relative humidity 72

The average relative humidity of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 72

The total fall of rain from 24th to 30th April 1898 Nil

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 0.79

The total fall from 1st January to 30th April 1898 1.40

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 4.82

The mean pressure, temperature, &c., are deduced from the traces of the Barograph and Thermograph and from observations made at 6h., 10h., 16h., and 22h.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are obtained from self-registering thermometers. All thermometers are verified and the readings have been corrected to a standard constructed and verified at Kew Observatory. They are exposed under a thatched shed open at the sides, and are suspended four above the ground.

The barometer readings are corrected approximately to those of the standard, Newman's No. formerly at the Surveyor-General's Office.

The hygrometric elements are obtained from Tables III, IV, and V of the official tables computed by the Meteorological Office, and based on Regnault's modifications of August's formula.

The directions and the movement of the wind are taken from the trace of a Beckley's anemograph. The mouth of the rain-gauge is one foot above the ground.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, GOVT. OF INDIA,
Calcutta, the 2nd May 1898.

J. H. GILLILAND,
For Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of India

Results of the Barometrical and Thermometrical Observations taken at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, from 24th to 30th April 1898.

MONTH.	Date.	Pressure at 10 A.M. corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.						HYGROMETRY.			Rainfall, past 24 hours.
			Daily mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Dry bulb at 10 A.M.	Wet bulb at 10 A.M.	Vapour tension at 10 A.M.	Dew point at 10 A.M.	Humidity at 10 A.M.	
1898.		Inches.	°	°		°	°	°	Inches.	°	%	Inches.
April	24th	29.814	87.9	96.0	16.2	79.8	90.6	81.5	.953	77.1	67	Nil.
"	25th	734	89.4	98.0	17.2	80.8	90.8	82.3	.990	78.9	67	"
"	26th	691	88.7	96.0	14.7	81.3	90.6	83.0	1.023	80.1	72	"
"	27th	721	88.9	97.0	16.2	80.8	91.1	83.5	1.046	80.7	71	"
"	28th	719	88.9	96.0	14.2	81.8	90.6	83.3	1.043	80.5	71	"
"	29th	725	90.3	98.0	15.4	82.6	91.6	83.5	1.039	80.4	70	"
"	30th	734	90.3	98.3	16.0	82.3	92.6	83.7	1.033	80.3	67	"

The mean 10 A.M. pressure of the seven days	...	...	Inches.
			29.734
The mean temperature of the seven days	...	...	89.2
The extreme variation of temperature	...	...	18.5
The maximum temperature	...	...	98.3
The mean 10 A.M. relative humidity of the seven days	...	...	% 69
The total fall of rain from 24th to 30th April 1898	...	...	Inches. Nil.

The daily mean temperatures are the crude means of maximum and minimum temperatures.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,

The 2nd May 1898.

C. LITTLE,

Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

Annual Statistics of the Districts of Bengal for the month of January 1898.

DIVISIONS.	DISTRICTS.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS.										REMARKS.								
		Population under registration.	Number registered.	CHOLERA.		SMALL-POX.		FEVER.		DYSENTERY AND DIARRHŒA.		INJURY.			OTHER CAUSES.		TOTAL OF ALL CAUSES.		AVERAGE OF CORRESPONDING MONTH OF PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS.			
				Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number registered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number registered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number registered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number registered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number registered.		Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number registered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number registered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number registered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Burdwan	Burdwan	1,391,880	2,570	25.56	3	0.9	82	9.4	1,932	16.80	129	9.6	10	0.8	401	4.20	2,608	29.44	3,982	34.39		
	Brhmun	798,254	2,254	53.84	11	1.9	4	0.6	1,927	15.36	2	0.6	9	1.2	353	5.28	1,410	21.19	2,074	31.08		
	Bankura	1,069,698	2,108	53.64	29	1.59	58	9.4	1,695	19.24	3	0.4	9	0.9	383	5.28	1,511	16.92	2,302	31.68		
Presidency	Midnapore	2,681,516	8,376	58.16	29	1.59	12	1.2	4,781	50.72	186	9.4	16	1.2	1,640	7.44	6,691	37.80	7,160	41.28		
	Hooghly, including Seram-pore.	1,034,296	2,686	58.16	18	1.2	12	1.2	2,590	50.72	186	9.4	21	1.2	1,443	5.04	3,264	37.80	3,560	41.28		
	Howrah	703,625	2,497	37.80	61	8.4	19	1.0	2,966	15.60	383	6.00	19	0.4	463	7.68	1,969	30.72	3,108	33.00		
Raibahli	24-Parganas	1,899,033	5,273	37.12	453	2.88	10	0.6	8,486	22.08	159	0.6	61	0.6	1,033	18.12	4,683	29.40	5,184	36.40		
	Calcutta	1,681,560	4,922	36.96	31	4.8	51	4.0	5,119	9.12	333	6.12	25	0.9	474	3.36	1,982	34.80	2,691	37.20		
	Nadia	1,644,108	4,604	33.60	30	2.4	4	0.3	2,351	16.32	14	0.9	11	0.9	372	2.52	2,186	20.64	3,383	31.80		
Bhagalpur	Murshidabad	1,250,046	3,316	33.16	30	2.4	4	0.3	1,833	17.52	6	0.4	11	0.9	372	2.52	2,186	20.64	3,383	31.80		
	Jessore	1,898,827	3,383	35.00	314	1.92	4	0.3	4,392	27.84	5	0.2	30	1.2	383	7.32	3,600	36.60	4,918	40.92		
	Kalshahi	1,171,622	4,489	49.79	188	1.60	2	0.1	3,595	33.24	8	0.6	19	0.8	182	3.24	4,384	36.16	5,363	45.84		
Dacca	Dinajpur	1,477,622	4,489	49.79	278	2.16	7	0.4	3,595	33.24	8	0.6	19	0.8	182	3.24	4,384	36.16	5,363	45.84		
	Naakhali	1,290,167	3,704	37.04	1	0.1	1	0.1	1,707	50.00	8	0.8	6	0.6	148	1.80	1,801	37.20	2,456	36.84		
	Darjeeling	2,005,434	6,970	40.44	906	5.16	1	0.1	4,883	25.92	86	0.8	7	0.6	315	1.70	7,403	37.20	8,387	49.96		
Chittagong	Bangpur	766,635	2,882	45.00	128	1.92	1	0.1	1,728	36.84	12	1.2	6	0.6	124	1.60	2,456	36.84	3,179	47.68		
	Patna	1,391,293	4,945	37.32	140	1.92	46	1.2	3,611	32.16	13	0.8	97	1.9	1,493	7.44	7,468	37.32	8,293	30.36		
	Dacca	3,395,693	8,906	44.24	480	2.40	16	0.9	5,177	32.72	86	0.8	54	1.2	975	15.80	8,610	39.96	9,505	48.56		
Patna	Myersingh	3,479,156	12,644	45.68	720	2.40	16	0.9	5,177	32.72	86	0.8	54	1.2	975	15.80	8,610	39.96	9,505	48.56		
	Faridpur	1,823,543	6,480	45.6	385	2.52	2	0.1	3,595	33.24	8	0.6	19	0.8	182	3.24	4,384	36.16	5,363	45.84		
	Back-sargunge	2,183,965	9,469	55.44	324	1.80	2	0.1	3,595	33.24	8	0.6	19	0.8	182	3.24	4,384	36.16	5,363	45.84		
Bhagalpur	Tippura	1,782,935	8,321	55.92	380	2.52	2	0.1	3,595	33.24	8	0.6	19	0.8	182	3.24	4,384	36.16	5,363	45.84		
	Naakhali	1,009,693	4,756	56.52	66	0.72	9	0.7	3,451	31.44	599	5.36	26	0.94	955	9.40	11,427	105.20	8,437	31.92		
	Chittagong	1,290,167	3,704	37.04	5,381	54.12	9	0.7	4,657	43.68	599	5.36	26	0.94	955	9.40	11,427	105.20	8,437	31.92		
Orissa	Patna	1,772,353	5,167	34.56	3	0.1	13	0.8	2,150	14.52	114	7.9	37	0.94	717	5.04	3,064	25.40	3,472	25.40		
	Gaya	2,185,331	5,511	30.64	6	0.2	135	0.9	2,540	10.80	95	1.9	37	0.94	717	5.04	3,064	25.40	3,472	25.40		
	Shahabad	2,090,579	5,154	30.60	...	...	...	...	4,085	21.66	9	0.1	34	0.94	636	3.60	4,677	27.96	5,673	27.96		
Bhagalpur	Saran	2,406,065	6,702	35.25	...	...	...	...	2,831	13.24	124	6.0	57	0.94	2,415	11.04	5,043	21.48	6,037	29.58		
	Champanan	1,899,465	4,995	30.00	...	...	...	...	2,831	13.24	124	6.0	57	0.94	2,415	11.04	5,043	21.48	6,037	29.58		
	Musafirpur	2,712,857	6,662	29.40	...	...	...	...	4,821	21.72	20	0.8	38	1.2	612	5.00	5,778	24.72	6,680	28.56		
Chota Nag- par.	Darbhangha	2,801,955	6,928	29.64	...	...	...	...	4,916	31.00	140	4.8	28	1.0	711	5.00	5,778	24.72	6,680	28.56		
	Monghyr	2,038,021	6,072	30.24	...	...	...	...	3,194	18.72	34	1.9	45	0.94	539	7.12	3,842	22.56	4,612	27.12		
	Bhagalpur	2,032,696	6,386	37.68	...	...	...	...	3,706	21.54	22	1.2	45	0.94	539	7.12	3,842	22.56	4,612	27.12		
Orissa	Purnea	1,944,658	6,016	37.08	...	...	...	...	4,136	37.80	13	0.7	17	0.9	196	1.90	4,390	39.72	6,463	37.32		
	Malda	814,919	2,915	35.84	...	...	...	...	1,851	27.94	8	0.5	5	0.5	145	2.04	2,047	30.36	2,713	39.84		
	Sonthal Parganas	1,753,775	3,516	34.00	...	...	...	...	2,483	16.56	21	1.9	21	1.2	161	1.08	2,548	18.00	2,658	17.28		
Chota Nag- par.	Cuttack	1,037,671	5,298	39.28	...	...	...	...	8,390	92.90	484	2.88	25	0.94	2,134	13.20	6,569	40.56	8,325	39.88		
	Balsore	864,055	3,450	37.68	...	...	...	...	1,732	20.16	202	3.48	25	0.94	1,104	14.52	3,287	39.60	3,818	35.96		
	Puri	944,998	1,802	32.80	...	...	...	...	8	10.20	314	5.96	25	0.94	1,478	18.72	3,275	41.52	2,729	34.56		
Average of corresponding month of previous five years.	Hazaribagh	1,164,291	9,888	98.42	...	...	...	...	1,890	19.44	7	0.7	83	0.94	298	3.40	781	7.08	959	26.40		
	Lohardaga	1,198,882	7,755	98.42	...	...	...	...	1,048	10.92	40	0.6	30	0.94	781	7.08	1,961	30.76	2,186	32.66		
	Manikpur	1,096,770	2,755	35.40	...	...	...	...	1,000	20.04	8	0.5	12	0.94	176	3.48	1,221	24.48	1,541	26.70		
Total	Manikpur	1,193,328	1,993	19.08	...	...	...	...	1,472	14.76	19	1.2	12	0.94	232	2.98	1,743	17.40	1,869	19.60		
	Singbhum	546,488	1,388	29.16	...	...	...	...	763	16.68	22	4.8	21	0.56	94	2.04	902	19.80	889	19.68		
	Total	71,069,617	215,541	36.36	11,780	1.92	1,169	1.12	140,477	23.64	4,720	7.9	1,180	1.12	30,303	5.04	189,069	31.92	...	...
Average of corresponding month of previous five years.	Total	243,857	1,63	39.48	10,325	1.63	1,069	1.12	145,082	24.48	4,920	6.0	1,070	1.12	31,087	5.16	192,809	32.52	...	...
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

BENGAL CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Abstract of principal Commodities carried over the Bengal Central Railway during the month of February 1898, as compared with the same month of the previous year.

STAPLES.	1896.		1897.		TOTAL.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	1896.	1897.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		
Cool and Coke carried for the Public and Foreign Railways.	2,161	250	2,350	12	2,441	2,943		501
Cotton, raw	3			15	2	15		13
Cotton, manufactured—			127		88	127		39
Twist and yarn, European	88							
Ditto, Indian	1			1	1	1		
Piece-goods, European	127	1	400		128	400		272
Ditto, Indian	2		3	1	2	4		
Drugs and Chemicals—								
Intoxicating, other than Opium								
Non-intoxicating—								
Cinchona bark								
Others	1	1	1		2	1	1	
Dyes and Tans—								
Indigo								
Myrobolams								
Gutch								
Turmeric	6	2	2	1	8	3	5	
Aniline Dyes								
Others	1				1		1	
Grain and Pulse—								
Wheat								
Rice in the husk	114	189	17	79	303	96	207	
Do. not in the husk	17	540	129	767	557	806		249
Jawar and Bajra								
Gram and pulse	39	550	51	449	589	500	89	
Others								
Hides and Skins—								
Hides of cattle—								
Dressed or tanned								
Raw								
Skins of Sheep, &c.—		42		11	42	11	31	
Dressed or tanned								
Raw								
Horns								
Jute—								
Raw	1	547	1	211	548	212	336	
Gunny-bags and cloth	33	4	28	5	37	31	6	
Lac—								
Stick								
Shell								
Leather, manufactured	3		11		3	11		
Liquors—								
Beer								
Spirits								
Wines	3		6		3	6		
Metals—								
Copper, unwrought								
Brass, ditto								
Copper, wrought								
Brass, ditto	16	5	19	4	21	23		
Iron	23	4	44	1	27	45		
Others	29	12	13	18	41	31	10	
Oil—								
Kerosine	62	6	188	5	68	193		
Castor								
Cocconut	14		7		14			
Others	30		114		30	114		
Oilseeds—								
Linseed		14	5	1	14	6	8	
Rape and mustard		26	27	11	30	38		
Til or jujili				22		22		
Poppy								
Earth-nuts								
Castor								
Others								
Opium	1				1		1	
Paper and Pasteboard	10	2	11		12	11	1	
Provisions—								
Ghee		3	2		3	2	1	
Dried fruits and nuts								
Others	380	286	431	237	866	663	198	
Railway plant and rolling-stock carried for the Public and Foreign Railways—								
Locomotives, engines, and tenders, and parts thereof.								
Carriages and trucks, and parts thereof								
Materials—								
Steel rails and fish-plates, sleepers, and keys of steel and cast-iron.								
Other sorts								
Salt	423	35	625	11	457	636		
Saltpetre, &c.—								
Saltpetre	1				1		1	
Other saline substances								
Silk raw—								
Foreign								
Indian								
Silk piece-goods—								
Foreign								
Indian—								
Muga								
Endi								

STAPLES.	1898.		1897.		TOTAL.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	1898.	1897.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		
Spices—								
Betel-nuts...		739	4	979	739	983		244
Pepper								
Ginger								
Chillies	15	27	6	28	42	34	8	
Cardamoms								
Others	5	2	16	11	7	27		20
Lime and limestone	24	2			26		26	
Ballast stone	182				182		182	
Sugar—								
Refined or crystallized, including sugar-candy.	22		16		22	16	6	
Unrefined, viz., molasses and jaggery or gur, and other saccharine produce.	114	392	174	379	506	553		47
Tea—								
Foreign								
Indian								
Timber	35	4	29	2	39	31	8	
Tobacco—								
Unmanufactured	20	7	41	9	27	50		23
Manufactured—								
Cigars			2			2		2
Other sorts								
Wool, raw								
Wool, manufactured—								
Piece-goods, European			1			1		1
Ditto, Indian								
Shawls								
All other articles of merchandise	247	251	222	435	468	657		150
Total	4,455	3,973	5,705	3,703	8,428	9,408	1,133	2,113

CALCUTTA, the 29th April 1898.

T. SIDDLE,
Auditor.

Weekly Return of Traffic Receipts on Indian Railways.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 16th April 1898 on 1,705.09 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES	
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching	Merchandise.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
Total traffic for the week ...	333,981	(a) 3,45,914 15 0	44,72,235 10	8,84,690 4 0	22,499 0 0	12,53,134 3 0	94,813	1,79,801
Or per mile of railway ...	.....	202 14 3	.....	518 13 8	13 3 1	734 15 0	.....	.....
For previous 14½ weeks of half-year ...	*4,615,745	*50,77,390 11 0	†6,17,29,631 20	†1,20,33,195 3 0	‡3,27,894 0 0	1,74,43,479 14 0	1,344,251½	2,291,477½
Total for 15½ weeks ...	4,949,726	54,23,335 10 0	6,61,95,866 30	1,29,52,885 7 0	3,50,393 0 0	1,86,96,614 1 0	1,439,064½	2,475,278½
COMPARISON.								
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	349,414	3,17,869 13 5	43,40,285 0	8,62,219 2 3	23,728 11 0	12,03,817 10 8	88,829	152,563
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	186 11 5	.....	506 7 3	13 15 0	707 1 8	.....	.....
Total for corresponding 15½ weeks of previous year ...	4,756,108½	50,62,310 6 5	6,30,03,338 30	1,31,16,522 6 6	3,29,436 5 6	1,85,08,269 2 5	1,396,419	2,345,199

(a) The increase is due to pilgrim traffic.
 * Added number of passengers 2,689 and Rs. 43,026½ on account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the weeks ended 14th and 15th April 1898.
 † Do. mounds 1,17,018 and deducted " 5,517½ February and 5th March 1898.
 ‡ Do.

TARKESSUR BRANCH RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 16th April 1898 on 22.23 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES	
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
Total traffic for the week ...	(a) 44,842	(a) 13,731 0 0	14,234 0	498 15 0	10 0 0	14,239 15 0	1,450	112
Or per mile of railway ...	.....	617 10 10	.....	22 7 1	0 7 3	640 9 2	.....	.....
For previous 14½ weeks of half-year ...	370,037*	94,855 11 0*	2,53,583 20†	10,317 2 0†	131 0 0†	1,05,304 13 0	15,502	1,680
Total for 15½ weeks ...	414,879	1,08,586 11 0	2,67,817 20	10,816 1 0	142 0 0	1,10,514 12 0	16,952	1,792
COMPARISON.								
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	42,874½	11,123 1 11	14,007 30	577 11 0	15 0 6	11,715 13 5	1,216	60
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	500 5 10	.....	25 15 9	0 10 10	527 0 5	.....	.....
Total for corresponding 15½ weeks of previous year ...	403,489	1,01,904 8 11	2,03,068 30	10,895 13 0	108 12 0	1,12,909 1 11	16,964	1,428

(a) The increase is chiefly in outward traffic.
 * Added No. of passengers 2,256 and Rs. 64½ on account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the weeks ended 14th and 15th April 1898.
 † Do. Mds. 2,190 and deducted " 117½ and 5th March 1898.
 ‡ Do.

DELHI-UMBALLA-KALKA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ended 16th April 1898 on 162.24 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES	
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
Total traffic for the week ...	18,100	17,530 5 0	76,805 10	11,652 11 0	62 0 0	29,245 0 0	9,529	4,890
Or per mile of railway ...	.....	108 0 10	.....	71 13 2	0 6 1	180 4 1	.....	.....
For previous 14½ weeks of half-year ...	*471,891	*3,07,049 2 0	†15,09,093 20	†2,25,241 7 0	‡1,234 0 0	5,33,528 9 0	107,400	67,530
Total for 15½ weeks ...	489,991	3,24,579 7 0	15,84,898 30	2,36,894 2 0	1,298 0 0	5,62,771 9 0	116,929	72,460
COMPARISON.								
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	18,012	16,833 13 5	59,796 10	10,328 8 0	59 11 3	27,222 0 8	6,755	3,740
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	104 14 6	.....	64 5 10	0 5 11	169 10 3	.....	.....
Total for corresponding 15½ weeks of previous year ...	260,271	2,31,948 13 5	13,76,788 20	1,69,657 10 0	973 10 0	4,02,580 1 5	102,634	58,010

* Added number of passengers 2,659 and Rs. 3,055½ on account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the weeks ended 14th and 15th April 1898.
 † Deducted Mds. 1,867 and " 4,403½ 26th February and 5th March 1898.
 ‡ Added

EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

(INCLUDING N. B., DACCA, K.-D., AND ASSAM-BIHAR SECTIONS.)

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 23rd April 1898 on 818 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings, including ferry.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week ...	194,010	1,00,220 0 0	7,81,260 0	1,27,270 0 0	10,070 0 0	2,37,560 0 0	35,100	36,822	71,922
per mile of railway ...	237	123 0 0	955 0	156 0 0	2 0 0	†281 0 0	.....	.....	.....
previous 14 weeks of half-year*	3,098,019	16,17,163 0 0	1,40,74,298 0	23,85,161 0 0	2,31,920 0 0	42,34,244 0 0	520,311	598,848	1,125,159
Total for 15 weeks ...	3,292,029	17,17,383 0 0	1,48,55,558 0	25,12,431 0 0	2,41,990 0 0	44,71,804 0 0	5,61,411	635,670	1,197,081
COMPARISON.									
Traffic for corresponding period of previous year ...	192,429	1,01,563 0 0	7,99,099 0	1,12,093 0 0	27,816 0 0	2,41,474 0 0	34,370	36,140	70,510
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	236	125 0 0	982 0	138 0 0	24 0 0	287 0 0	.....	.....	.....
to corresponding date of previous year ...	3,268,771	17,40,525 0 0	1,38,78,622 0	19,22,710 0 0	2,51,505 0 0	89,14,740 0 0	541,238	549,245	1,090,483

* Audited up to 5th March 1898.

† Excluding steamer earnings.

DACCA STATE RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 23rd April 1898 on 86 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week ...	22,220	7,720 0 0	25,210 0	2,560 0 0	120 0 0	10,400 0 0	2,647	1,585	4,232
per mile of railway ...	258	9 0 0	293 0	30 0 0	1 0 0	121 0 0	.....	.....	.....
previous 14 weeks of half-year*	399,113	1,32,385 0 0	641,009 0	64,169 0 0	2,943 0 0	1,90,497 0 0	42,423	24,648	67,071
Total for 15 weeks ...	421,333	1,40,105 0 0	666,219 0	66,729 0 0	3,063 0 0	2,09,897 0 0	45,070	26,233	71,303
COMPARISON.									
Traffic for corresponding week of previous year ...	18,915	5,812 0 0	43,692 0	4,348 0 0	624 0 0	10,784 0 0	2,568	1,420	3,988
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	220	68 0 0	508 0	50 0 0	7 0 0	125 0 0	.....	.....	.....
to corresponding date of previous year ...	348,384	1,05,178 0 0	596,027 0	49,114 0 0	3,498 0 0	1,57,790 0 0	41,702	19,998	61,700

* Audited up to 5th March 1898.

BENGAL CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 23rd April 1898 on 125 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week ...	33,060	12,678 0 0	53,478 0	4,078 0 0	56 0 0	17,012 0 0	5,213	2,097	7,220
per mile of railway ...	264	103 0 0	428 0	33 0 0	.....	136 0 0	.....	.....	.....
previous 15 weeks of half-year*	4,76,407	2,11,583 0 0	954,982 0	66,412 0 0	35,541 0 0	3,13,536 0 0	72,931	34,189	107,120
Total for 16 weeks ...	5,09,467	2,24,461 0 0	10,08,469 0	70,490 0 0	35,597 0 0	3,30,548 0 0	78,144	36,196	114,340
COMPARISON.									
Traffic for corresponding week of previous year ...	30,870	12,059 0 0	52,794 0	4,042 0 0	2,037 0 0	18,138 0 0	4,649	2,821	7,470
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	247	97 0 0	422 0	32 0 0	16 0 0	145 0 0	.....	.....	.....
to corresponding date of previous year ...	5,47,100	2,09,120 0 0	11,46,451 0	68,992 0 0	8,561 0 0	2,86,673 0 0	60,015	44,084	110,099

* Audited up to 26th February 1898.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ended 16th April 1898 on 286 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	23,884	16,297 0 0	2,90,020 0	8,006 0 0	235 0 0	24,628 0 0	2,850 9'99	4,084 16'38	7,540 2'67
Or per mile of railway ...	83'41	56'98	1,014'06	28'31	0'82	86'11			
For previous 14 weeks of half-year(a) ...	395,323	2,39,961 0 0	32,23,935 0	1,20,393 0 0	7,012 0 0	3,68,266 0 0	43,918	61,847	105,765
Total for 15 weeks ...	419,206	2,56,258 0 0	35,13,955 0	1,28,489 0 0	8,147 0 0	3,92,894 0 0	46,777	66,531	113,308
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	17,403	10,587 0 0	2,42,141 0	6,904 0 0	196 0 0	17,687 0 0	3,205	7,796	11,001
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	50'27	30'42	672'61	19'18	0'54	50'14	9'21	21'66	30'47
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	318,399	1,84,500 0 0	24,69,949 0	1,30,839 0 0	7,249 0 0	3,22,678 0 0	59,414	108,519	167,933

(a) Includes audited figures for week ending 12th March 1898.

FINANCIAL YEAR.

Approximate Statement of Gross Receipts of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 16TH APRIL 1898.			RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 17TH APRIL 1897.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1898 TO 16TH APRIL 1898.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1897 TO 17TH APRIL 1897.			Total increase in 1898.	Total decrease in 1898.
Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Rs.	
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
286	24,628	86'11	360	17,688	59'14	286	66,278	...	360	44,629	...	21,649	.....

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the Week ended 23rd April 1898 on 286 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	24,703	14,766 0 0	2,33,599 0	7,523 0 0	378 0 0	22,667 0 0	3,191 11'16	4,401 15'38	7,592 26'94
Or per mile of railway ...	86'37	51'63	816'78	26'30	1'32	79'25			
For previous 15 weeks of half-year* ...	419,956	2,56,833 0 0	35,36,928 0	1,29,193 0 0	8,039 0 0	3,94,065 0 0	46,800	66,678	113,478
Total for 16 weeks ...	444,659	2,71,599 0 0	37,70,527 0	1,36,716 0 0	8,417 0 0	4,16,732 0 0	49,991	71,979	121,970
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	19,828	10,801 0 0	2,82,516 0	5,485 0 0	1,592 0 0	29,878 0 0	3,466	7,447	10,913
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	56'98	31'04	784'77	23'57	4'42	59'03	9'96	20'60	30'47
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	338,227	1,98,891 0 0	27,52,464 0	1,39,324 0 0	8,841 0 0	3,43,556 0 0	62,880	115,966	178,846

* Includes audited figures for week ending 19th March 1898.

FINANCIAL YEAR.

Approximate Statement of Gross Receipts of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 23RD APRIL 1898.			RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 24TH APRIL 1897.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1898 TO 23RD APRIL 1898.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1897 TO 24TH APRIL 1897.			Total increase in 1898.	Total decrease in 1898.
Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Rs.	
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
286	22,667	79'25	360	20,878	59'03	286	68,945	.....	360	65,507	.....	23,438	.....

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

(INCLUDES TIRHUT STATE RAILWAY.)

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending 16th April 1898 on 854 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated), including steam-boat.	Totalearnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
Total traffic for the week on 854 miles open	117,110	(a) 46,600	5,98,520	(b) 85,380	(a) 17,790	(a) 1,49,770	19,455	(c) 26,339	45,794
Or per mile of railway	137.13	54.56	700.84	99.98	20.83	175.37	.....	.....	.....
For previous 14½ weeks of half-year (d)	1,591,286	6,96,147	74,04,194	9,83,110	2,50,974	19,30,231	268,771	342,974	611,745
Total for 15½ weeks	1,708,396	7,42,747	80,02,714	10,68,490	2,68,764	20,80,001	288,226	369,313	657,539
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year on 819 miles open	155,065	65,070	5,62,972	65,448	22,140	1,52,667	16,734	(e) 25,684	42,418
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year	189.33	79.45	687.39	79.91	27.06	186.41	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year	1,717,273	6,93,621	77,14,365	8,63,936	2,68,952	18,26,569	235,195	339,666	574,861

(a) Decrease due to no special cause.

(b) Increase due to brisker traffic.

(c) Includes 666 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

(d) " audited figures up to week ending 12th February 1898.

(e) " 1,392 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Approximate earnings for the week ending 23rd April 1898	15,413	0	0
Corresponding period of 1897	11,104	0	0
Increase	4,309	0	0
Receipts per mile for the week ending 23rd April 1898	302	3	5
Ditto for the corresponding period of 1897	217	11	7
Increase	84	7	10
Receipts from 1st January to 23rd April 1898	1,95,959	0	0
Corresponding period of 1897	2,01,305	0	0
Decrease	5,346	0	0



SUPPLEMENT TO The Calcutta Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1898.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

[Non-Subscribers to the GAZETTE may receive the SUPPLEMENT separately on payment of Six Rupees per annum if delivered in Calcutta, or Twelve Rupees if sent by Post.]

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WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

For the week ending the 9th May 1898.

Burdwan.—Rainfall at Sadar ·01, Kalna ·04, Katwa nil, Raniganj ·22. Weather seasonable. Rain wanted for ploughing and for sowing *aus* paddy. Fields being manured. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	13 to 16	} per rupee.
Kalna	13	
Katwa	12½ to 14	
Raniganj	13½	

Birbhum.—Rainfall at Sadar ·01, Rampur Hât 1·50. Weather hot and cloudy. More rain wanted. Manuring and ploughing of fields going on. Prices stationary. No want of fodder.

Bankura.—Rainfall at Bankura ·76, Vishnupur ·37. Weather hot and occasionally cloudy. Transplantation of sugarcane going on. More rain required for ploughing. Fields being manured. No report of cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice selling at 15 seers a rupee at Sadar and Vishnupur.

Midnapore.—Rainfall at Sadar ·04, Ghatal ·08. Prospects of indigo, sugarcane and *til* good. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	12	} per rupee.
Contai	14 to 16	
Tamluk	12½	
Ghatal	12 to 13	

Hooghly.—Some rain on the evening of 7th. Complaints coming of scarcity of water in thana Singur. Common rice sells from 10 to 12 seers per rupee.

Howrah.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. Harvesting of *boro* continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells from $10\frac{1}{2}$ to 13 seers per rupee.

24-Parganas.—Rainfall at Sadar .42. Weather hot and cloudy. No crops on the ground. More rain badly wanted for tillage. Fodder sufficient, but good water insufficient in places. Cattle-disease reported from the Diamond Harbour subdivision. Common rice sells as follows :—

			Srs.	
Sadar	10 to $12\frac{1}{2}$	} per rupee.
Barasat	...	...	10
Basirhat	...	...	$13\frac{3}{4}$
Diamond Harbour	...	...	$12\frac{3}{4}$

Nadia.—Rainfall at Sadar .02, Meherpur .06, Chuadanga .03. Sowing of *aus* has commenced, but the seed will not germinate without rain. Indigo and sugarcane doing well. Common rice selling at 11 seers to 12 seers 13 chitaks per rupee. Fodder and water insufficient in places. Cow-pox reported from thana Tehatta.

Murshidabad.—Rainfall at Sadar .99, Kandi nil, Jangipur .77. Weather seasonable. Harvesting of *rabi* finished. Sowing of *aus* and *aman* commenced. The recent rain has done much good to the cultivation of crops. State of indigo and mulberry hopeful. Fodder sufficient. No cattle-disease reported. Common rice sells as follows :—

				Srs.	
Sadar	...	...	...	12	} per rupee.
Kandi	...	...	...	$13\frac{3}{4}$	
Jangipur	...	...	...	$13\frac{3}{4}$	

Jessore.—Rainfall at Sadar .20, Jhenida .02, Bangaon .84. Weather hot and close, cloudy but without rain. Ploughing and sowing retarded for want of rain. Cattle-disease reported from Muhammadpur. Fodder not sufficient, and water somewhat scarce in some places in the Narail and Jhenida subdivisions. Common rice sells as follows :—

				Srs.	ch.	
Jessore	11 to 13	0	} per rupee.
Jhenida	...	...	...	11	0
Magura	...	...	...	$10\frac{1}{2}$ to $11\frac{1}{2}$	0
Narail	...	...	...	11	$6\frac{6}{7}$
Bangaon	...	...	...	12 to 13	0

Khulna.—No rain. Weather hot. Harvesting of *boro* and cultivation of *aus* going on. Fodder and water available. Cattle-disease abating. Common rice sells as follows :—

				Srs.	
Sadar	...	...	...	11 to 14	} per rupee.
Satkhira	...	...	...	13	
Bagerhat	...	...	...	$12\frac{1}{2}$	

Rajshahi.—Rainfall at Sadar .19, Nator 1.00, Naugaon .57. Sowing of *aman* and *bhadoi* paddy going on. Prospects of crops good. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water available. Price of rice ranges from 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Dinajpur.—Average rainfall 1.8. Weather cool and cloudy. Sowing of *bhadoi* and jute going on. No cattle-disease. Fodder and drinking-water sufficient. Rice selling at $13\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee.

Jalpaiguri.—Rainfall at Sadar 5.08, Alipur Duars 13.79. Weather cloudy and hot. Sowing of *bhadoi* and jute going on. The recent rain has done much good to the standing crops. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells from 11 to 15 seers per rupee.

Darjeeling.—Rainfall at Darjeeling 2.33, Kurseong 1.86, Siliguri 5.33. Weather seasonable. *Hills.*—*Bhutta*, potatoes and *chota marua* progressing. *Terai.*—Sowing of *bhadoi*, jute and sugarcane going on. Coarse rice sells as follows :—

Hills—10 to 12 seers per rupee.
Terai—13 to 16 „ „ „

Bhutta sells from 16 to 28 seers per rupee.

Rangpur.—District average rainfall 1.24. Rainfall at Kurigram 2.39, Nilphamari 2.19, Gaibanda 1.4. Sowing of jute continues. Weeding of *aus* going on. Harvesting of tobacco proceeding. Prospects good. Common rice selling at 12 to 14 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient. Good drinking-water reported scarce in places in Gaibanda.

Bogra.—Average rainfall .39. Sowing of jute and *aus* continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells from 12 to $13\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee.

Pabna.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·76, Sirajganj ·86. Weather partially cloudy and hot. Prospects of standing crops good, and the recent rain will facilitate further sowings of jute and paddy. Price of rice 10 to 12 seers per rupee.

Dacca.—Rainfall at sadar ·80. Narainganj ·53. Manikganj and Munshiganj nil. Weather hot. Sowing of *aus* and jute going on. Harvesting of *boro* proceeding. Fodder available. No cattle-disease. Common rice 11 to 12 seers per rupee.

Mymensingh.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·98, Jamalpur 1·55, Netrokona ·68. Weather cloudy. Prospects of standing crops fair. Rain wanted in some places. Common rice 10 to 12 seers per rupee.

Faridpur.—No rain. Weather seasonable. Rain wanted for sowing of paddy crops. Prospect of *aus* not favourable. Rice sells at 10½ per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient for the present.

Backergunge.—Rainfall nil. Weather warm. Rain wanted for crops. Common rice sells from 8 to 13 seers per rupee.

Tippera.—Rainfall at Sadar ·80. Weather hot and cloudy. The rain of last night (8th) and that of this morning (9th) will facilitate sowing. Scarcity of water and green fodder all over the district. Rice sells from 10 to 12½ seers per rupee.

Noakhali.—Rainfall at Sadar ·33. Prospects of crops not good. More rain wanted. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water insufficient. Price of rice 10 to 14 seers per rupee.

Chittagong.—Rainfall ·12. *Rabi* harvesting continues; outturn below the average. Rain wanted. Rice selling at 11 seers per rupee.

Patna.—Rainfall at Sadar ·22, Dinapore ·09, Barh ·50. Land being prepared for *bhadoi* cultivation. *China* continues good. Prices stationary. Common rice selling at 15 seers per rupee at Patna. Fodder and water for cattle sufficient.

Shahabad.—No rain. Sugarcane and *china* doing well. Cattle-disease reported from some villages in Sasaram. Fodder and water sufficient. Prices stationary.

Saran.—Rainfall at Sadar ·30, Gopalganj ·24. Weather seasonable. Standing crops good. Preparation for *bhadoi* sowing continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Average prices are—common rice 12·13 seers and *makai* 21·10, against 8·9 seers and 10·2 seers per rupee respectively last year.

Champaran.—Rainfall at Motihari ·75, Bettiah ·73, Barharwa ·43, Ramnagar 1·59. Weather cool and cloudy. Rain beneficial to early sowing of *bhadoi* and early paddy. Preparation of land continues. Common rice and maize sell at Sadar at 12½ and 21½ seers respectively, against average 15 and 20½ seers.

Muzaffarpur.—Rainfall at Sadar ·86, Hajipur ·13, Sitamarhi ·39. Prospects good. Prices are—common rice 10 to 13 seers, wheat 14 seers, barley 22½ seers, *makai* 19 seers, gram 16 to 17½ seers, and *rahar* 20 to 21 seers per rupee.

Darbhanga.—Rainfall at Sadar ·68, Samastipur ·12, Madhubani 1·58. Preparation for *bhadoi* in full progress. Early paddy and *mung* coming up well. Rain has been beneficial. Fodder and water sufficient. Prices stationary.

Monghyr.—Rainfall at Monghyr ·01, Begusarai nil, Jamui nil. Weather hot in the beginning with high east wind, latterly cool. Common rice sells as follows:—

Monghyr	...	...	...	11 to 13 seers per rupee.
Begusarai	...	...	...	13½ " "
Jamui	...	...	...	11 to 13½ " "

Bhagalpur.—Rainfall at Sadar ·84, Madhipura ·13, Supaul ·07. Weather somewhat cooled down. Ploughing in progress. Fodder and water sufficient. Cattle-disease reported from Supaul. Price of common rice stationary.

Purnea.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·75, Kishanganj ·71, Araria ·88. Rain did immense good to *bhadoi* and jute crops. Lands being prepared. Sowing going on briskly. Agricultural prospects satisfactory. Fodder and water sufficient. No cattle-disease. Common rice sells as follows:—

Sadar	...	...	...	15 seers per rupee.
Araria	...	...	...	15 " "
Kishanganj	...	...	...	15 to 16 " "

Malda.—Rainfall at Sadar ·30, Shibganj ·31, Chanchal ·66. A good shower of rain again fell last night (8th) accompanied by strong west wind. The rain has facilitated the sowing of *bhadoi* paddy and jute. *Boro* rice in ear. Rice selling at 13 seers a rupee at English Bazar.

Sonthal Parganas.—Average rainfall ·09. Rain still wanted for sugarcane and to replenish fodder and water-supply. Prices are—rice 13 to 18 seers and maize 17½ to 21 seers per rupee.

Cuttack.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. *Dalua* and tobacco being harvested. Cotton in flower. Sugarcane growing. Condition of cattle generally good. Common rice sells as follows:—

					Srs. ch.	
Cuttack	13 13) per rupee.
Jajpur	...	...	...	...	17 1
Kendrapara	...	...	...	...	18 6
Banki	...	...	...	...	16 13

Balasore.—Rainfall nil. Sugarcane growing well. *Dalua* being harvested. Cotton flowering. Ploughing continues. Price of rice varies from 13½ to 18 seers per rupee in the interior. Rice sells at 14 and 15 seers per rupee at Balasore and Bhadrak respectively. Fodder and water sufficient.

Angul.—Weather hot. Sugarcane doing well. Fodder and water available. Cattle-disease abating. Price of common rice stationary.

Hazaribagh.—Rainfall at Sadar ·07, Giridih ·20. Slight showers. Weather hot. Mango crop 16 annas. Rice sells from 10 to 13 seers per rupee.

Lohardaga.—Rainfall ·38. Prospects of mango continue good. Rice sells at Ranchi 12 seers, and in the interior from 12 to 16 seers per rupee. Cattle-disease continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Grain in stock sufficient.

Palamau.—Rainfall nil. Weather very hot. Sugarcane doing well. Rice selling from 12 to 17 seers per rupee. Water becoming scarce in places. No cattle-disease.

Manbhum.—Rainfall at Sadar ·50, Gobindpur ·39. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops on the ground good. Cattle-disease reported from thana Purulia. Fodder and water sufficient. Average price of common rice at Sadar 14½ seers and Gobindpur 13 seers per rupee. Supply sufficient.

Singhbhum.—Rainfall ·96. Rice plentiful, and the price is from 12 to 16 seers per rupee.

General Summary.—There was rain over almost the whole of Bengal Proper, Bihar, and Chota Nagpur during the week. No rain has been reported from Orissa. Ploughing and early sowings are in progress, but more rain is still required in parts. Condition of young sugarcane, *china* millet and indigo is good. Harvesting of spring rice and tobacco is still going on, and the cotton crop in Orissa is flowering. No important change in the price of rice has been reported since last week. There was cattle-disease in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Jessore, Khulna, Shahabad, Bhagalpur, Angul, Lohardaga and Manbhum. Insufficiency of fodder-supply is reported from Nadia, Jessore, Tippera, Noakhali, and Sonthal Parganas, and of water-supply in these districts and in Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Rangpur, and Palamau.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

The 10th May 1898.

M. FINUCANE,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

No. 407 Statist.—The following is published for general information.

D. J. MACPHERSON,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Statement showing the Stocks of Rice in and around Calcutta during May 1898.

STOCK IN HAND AS COMPILED ON—

NAMES OF MARKS.	1st week of May 1897.	1st week of June 1897.	1st week of July 1897.	1st week of August 1897.	1st week of Sept. 1897.	2nd week of Oct. 1897.	1st week of Nov. 1897.	1st week of Dec. 1897.	1st week of Jan. 1898.	1st week of Feb. 1898.	1st week of March 1898.	1st week of April 1898.	1st week of May 1898.
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Balighata	3,53,000	3,13,500	3,16,500	2,29,500	1,27,000	1,14,300	94,700	86,000	80,300	4,49,500	5,39,500	6,97,000	7,07,000
Ultadanga	27,800	26,000	21,300	18,700	15,500	13,200	12,800	10,600	15,900	34,300	43,000	53,500	47,500
Chitpur, Golabaree, Kumartooly, Hathkolia, and Culpin Ghat.	1,50,400	1,54,000	2,14,500	1,79,200	1,34,100	1,23,100	1,06,000	1,04,700	1,34,300	1,73,400	3,12,200	2,68,000	2,34,000
Pashurghatta, Posta, and Jorabagan.	3,100	1,550	1,800	2,000	1,450	640	1,250	1,450	2,500	2,700	4,900	3,200	1,800
Tollymore, Chetia, Kidderpore, and Munshiganj.	88,000	84,800	89,100	77,300	73,700	73,600	45,700	53,600	73,700	82,600	1,18,500	1,40,200	1,54,000
Minor bazars (1)	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000	2,40,000
Other retail shops (1)	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000	2,50,000
Ramkrishnapur*	71,700	72,400	79,175	72,500	47,100	56,900	29,300	48,400	61,500	79,500	1,33,400	1,43,300	1,28,000
Baidyabati, Nawabganj, Bhadrabar, and Chandernagore.†	8,075	6,088	10,550	11,493	4,175	2,956	3,178	1,745	1,849	Figures not available.	3,429	2,207	1,664
Total	12,21,675	11,45,288	11,22,985	10,80,535	8,93,025	8,35,606	7,82,928	7,98,495	8,61,049	13,12,300	16,44,929	18,02,407	17,69,864
On Railway premises on both sides of the river.‡	1,17,648 (on 1st May 1897.)	1,15,092 (on 29th May 1897.)	2,09,863 (on 3rd July 1897.)	75,618 (on 31st July 1897.)	2,31,766 (on 4th September 1897.)	7,623 (on 9th Oct. 1897.)	85,745 (on 30th Oct. 1897.)	39,295 (on 4th Dec. 1897.)	15,395 (on 1st Jan. 1898.)	21,832 (on 3rd Feb. 1898.)	12,518 (on 3rd March 1898.)	12,398 (on 3rd April 1898.)	11,283 (on 3rd May 1898.)
On boats not yet unloaded—													
By Port Commissioners' returns.	29,553 (1st to 3rd May 1897.)	41,668 (29th to 31st May 1897.)	56,497 (3rd to 5th July 1897.)	34,638 (31st July to 2nd Aug. 1897.)	23,896 (4th to 6th Sept. 1897.)	40,379 (9th to 11th Oct. 1897.)	25,303 (30th Oct. to 1st Nov. 1897.)	39,679 (4th to 6th Dec. 1897.)	56,581 (1st to 3rd Jan. 1898.)	45,514 (1st to 3rd Feb. 1898.)	49,670 (1st to 3rd March 1898.)	30,054 (1st to 3rd April 1898.)	24,914 (1st to 3rd May 1898.)
By Canal returns	11,028 (1st to 3rd May 1897.)	14,809 (29th to 31st May 1897.)	8,942 (3rd to 5th July 1897.)	6,489 (31st July to 2nd Aug. 1897.)	13,065 (4th to 6th Sept. 1897.)	9,728 (9th to 11th Oct. 1897.)	7,128 (30th Oct. to 1st Nov. 1897.)	15,752 (4th to 6th Dec. 1897.)	87,981 (1st to 3rd Jan. 1898.)	1,26,581 (1st to 3rd Feb. 1898.)	84,894 (1st to 3rd March 1898.)	50,047 (1st to 3rd April 1898.)	10,294 (1st to 3rd May 1898.)
Grand total of Stocks	13,79,904	13,19,867	13,78,287	11,97,270	11,51,642	9,10,417	9,01,002	8,93,221	10,20,947	15,07,227	17,92,011	18,94,004	18,10,354

* This mart is in the Howrah district, and the figures have been obtained by local enquiry.

† Figures furnished by the Collector of Hooghly.

‡ Ditto by the Railway authorities.

(1) Estimated as a constant quantity.

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,
The 10th May 1898.

D. J. MACPHERSON,
Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT (retail) of Food-grains and Salt in the Bengal

Number.		DISTRICTS.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE																	
			WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON			JOWAR OR CHOLEN (Sorghum Vulgare)					
			Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.			
BENGAL.																				
Burdwan Division.	1	Burdwan	...	12 0	12 0	...	...	...	...	10 14	11 0	6 12	12 14	13 0	8 7	...	...	...	...	...
	2	Birbhum	...	11 4	11 4	7 8	...	...	...	10 0	8 4	6 12	{ 12 12 to 13 8 }	13 8	8 4	...	...	...	...	...
	3	Bankura	...	12 0	13 2	9 0	24 0	20 0	12 0	11 4	11 4	8 0	15 0	15 0	10 0	...	...	...	...	...
	4	Midnapore	...	10 0	8 8	8 0	...	...	...	10 0	10 8	8 0	12 8	13 2	10 0	...	...	...	...	...
	5	Hooghly	...	10 0	10 0	9 8	...	...	...	7 8	7 8	7 0	10 8	11 8	8 0	...	...	...	...	...
	6	Howrah	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 4	9 8	7 10	12 0	12 2	9 8	...	...	...	...	...
Presidency Division.	7	24-Parganas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0	8 0	7 0	11 10	{ 12 0 to 13 0 }	8 12	...	...	...	...	...
	8	Calcutta	...	10 10	10 5	8 0	14 8	13 5	11 13	7 4	7 4	6 6	11 7	10 0	8 0	16 0	14 8	11 13	...	...
	9	Nadia	...	11 6	11 13	9 2	13 5	14 9	...	5 11	5 15	6 8	11 13	12 10	8 3	...	...	...	...	...
	10	Murshidabad	...	12 12	12 8	9 0	20 0	23 0	...	10 0	10 8	7 8	13 0	12 12	8 8	...	...	...	...	...
	11	Jessore	...	9 0	10 0	8 0	10 0	8 0	10 0	10 0	11 0	8 8	11 8	12 4	9 4	...	...	...	...	...
	12	Khulna	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 14	10 14	8 12	12 6	12 6	9 4	...	...	...	...	...
Rajshahi Division.	13	Rajshahi	...	13 8	14 4	9 0	22 8	21 12	12 0	6 0	6 0	6 0	12 6	12 0	8 1	...	...	...	...	...
	14	Dinajpur	...	12 0	12 0	8 6	...	...	...	9-9-3	9-9-3	7-3-1	13-12-8	13 9	9-11-1	...	...	...	...	...
	15	Jalpaiguri	...	10 0	9 0	8 0	...	...	...	5 0	5 0	7 0	12 0	12 0	8 0	...	...	...	...	...
	16	Darjeeling	...	7 0	7 0	6 0	8 0	8 0	8 0	5 8	5 8	4 8	11 0	11 0	7 8	...	...	...	...	...
	17	Rangpur	...	8 0	7 0	7 0	...	...	...	8 8	8 8	5 8	12 8	12 8	7 8	...	...	...	...	...
	18	Bogra	...	15 0	12 0	6 0	...	...	...	7 8	7 8	6 12	12 0	12 0	8 4	...	...	...	...	...
Dacca Division.	19	Pabna	...	12 12	15 0	9 6	22 8	22 8	15 0	6 0	6 0	6 0	12 0	12 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	20	Dacca	...	13 4	14 0	12 0	20 0	26 0	17 0	9 0	10 0	8 4	11 8	11 12	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	21	Mymensingh	...	8 0	8 0	7 0	...	...	...	7 8	7 8	6 0	10 0	10 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	22	Faridpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 6	5 7	5 4	10 8	11 10	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	23	Backergunge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 0	11 12	8 7	11 8	12 0	8 15	...	...	...	...	...

- A. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Kalna 10 seers (panga) and 11 seers (karkatch); Katwa 10 15 chitaks (karkatch); Raniganj 10½ seers.
- B. At Rampur Hât the retail price of salt is 11½ seers per rupee.
- C. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Contai 9 seers (panga); Tamluk 10 seers; Ghatal 10½ seers.
- D. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Serampore 10½ seers; Jahanabad 10 seers.
- E. At Ulubaria the retail price of salt is 10 seers 10½ chitaks per rupee.
- F. In the marts in the interior of the district the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Chetla 10½ seers; Barasat 10 seers 10 chitaks; Baduria 10½ seers; Magrahat 9 seers 2 chitaks.
- G. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Kushtia (Bahadurkhali) 10½ seers (panga); Chuadanga 10½ seers (panga); Meherpur 10 seers (karkatch); Ranaghat 10½ seers (crushed).
- H. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Lalbagh 11 seers; Kandi 10½ seers; Jangipur return not received.
- I. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Jhenida 9 seers 1 chitak; Magura 9½ seers; Narail 8 seers 11 chitaks; Bengaon 9 seers 2 chitaks.
- J. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Bagerhat 10 seers; Satkhira 11 seers.

SEERS OF 80 TOLAHS.

RAJRA OR CUMBU.
(*Pennisetum typhoid.*
CHNI.)

MARUA OR RAGI.
(*Eleusine Coracana.*)

Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.
-----------------	-----------------------------	---	-----------------	-----------------------------	---

Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch.

100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101	101
102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102
103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103	103
104	104	104	104	104	104	104	104	104	104
105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106	106
107	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	107
108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108
109	109	109	109	109	109	109	109	109	109
110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110

111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111
112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113	113
114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114	114
115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115
116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116	116
117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117
118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119
120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120

121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121	121
122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122	122
123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123	123
124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124
125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126	126
127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127
128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128
129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129
130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130

131	131	131	131	131	131	131	131	131	131
132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133
134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134	134
135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136	136
137	137	137	137	137	137	137	137	137	137
138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138
139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139	139
140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140

KANGNI OR KAKUN, ITALIAN MILLET. (<i>Setaria Italica</i> .)			GRAM, CHANA, CHHOLA, KADALAY, OR SUNAGA. (<i>Cicer arisianum</i> .)		
Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	re- Corresponding turn of last year.	Present return.	re- Next preceding turn.	re- Corresponding turn of last year.

S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
...	13	12	14	0	10	0
...	15	0	16	0	9	12
...	13	12	13	12	10	0
...	12	8	11	0	9	8
...	15	0	13	0	10	0
...	10	8	10	0	9	8

...	...	...	...	12	8	12	8	9	9
10	0	10	0	8	0	13	5	13	5
...	...	...	...	15	7	15	9	10	5
...	...	...	...	16	8	16	12	11	4
...	...	...	...	14	0	12	0	9	9
...	...	...	...	7	8	7	8	9	8

...	...	...	...	18	0	17	8	10	14
...	...	...	...	12	13	11	8	10	15
...	...	...	...	13	0	13	0	10	...
...	...	...	...	8	0	8	0	8	...
...	...	...	...	11	4	11	0	10	...
...	...	...	...	15	0	15	0	12	...
...	...	...	...	15	12	16	8	10	...

...	...	...	...	10	8	11	0	10	...
...	...	...	...	8	0	8	0	8	...
...	...	...	...	5	8	5	8	...	...
...	...	...	...	7	8	7	8	9	...

quarters Station Bazars of the Districts of Bengal on the 30th April 1898.

INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE. (Zea mays.)												ARHAR OR THUR, CADJAN PEA. (Cajanus Indicus.)						SALT.			WHOLESALE PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 SEERS.												DISTRICTS.			Number.
Present return.			Next preceding return.			Corresponding return of last year.			Present return.			Next preceding return.			Corresponding return of last year.			Present return.			Next preceding return.			Corresponding return of last year.												
S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.										
...	17	0	17	0	13	0	A			11	4	11	4	11	4	13	6	0	3	6	0	3	6	0	Burdwan.			1					
...	18	12	16	0	7	8	B			10	8	10	8	10	8	3	10	6	3	10	6	3	10	6	Birbhum.			2					
...	12	0	12	0	10	0	C			10	7	10	7	10	0	3	13	0	3	13	0	4	0	0	Bankura.			3					
...	16	0	17	8	D			10	0	10	8	10	0	3	11	0	0	3	10	0	3	15	0	Midnaporo.			4				
...	6	8	6	8	8	0	E			11	0	11	0	10	8	3	8	0	3	7	0	3	11	0	Hooghly.			5					
...	11	0	11	4	8	0	F			10	0	10	0	9	8	3	12	0	3	12	0	3	12	0	Howrah.			6					
...	11	8	12	4	8	0	G			10	8	10	8	9	0	3	7	0	3	7	0	4	0	0	24-Parganas.			7					
16	0	16	0	10	10	10	10	10	10	H			10	0	10	0	10	0	3	7	0	3	7	0	3	9	0	Calcutta.			8					
...	17	12	20	0	12	5	I			11	0	11	0	10	10	3	10	0	3	10	0	3	12	0	Nadia.			9					
...	18	12	22	8	13	8	J			11	0	11	0	11	0	3	8	0	3	8	0	3	8	0	Murshidabad.			10					
...	18	0	19	0	11	0	K			10	0	10	0	10	0	3	12	0	3	12	0	3	15	0	Jessore.			11					
...	7	8	7	8	9	0	L			8	0	8	0	8	0	4	8	0	4	8	0	4	8	0	Khulna.			12					
...	22	8	21	12	12	0	M			9	12	9	12	9	0	3	13	4	3	13	4	4	2	8	Rajshahi.			13					
...	20	0	20	0	12	0	N			10	12	10	12	10	0	3	12	0	3	12	0	4	0	0	Dinaipur.			14					
...	10	8	10	0	8	8	O			10	0	10	0	19	0	3	12	0	3	12	0	4	1	0	Jalpaiguri.			15					
18	0	19	0	11	0	5	8	6	8	P			8	0	18	0	17	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Darjeeling.			16
16	0	16	0	10	0	7	4	7	0	Q			8	8	19	0	10	0	4	0	0	4	8	0	4	0	0	Rangpur.			17					
...	R			9	12	18	13	19	0	4	1	4	1	4	2	8	4	5	4	Bogra.			18				
...	20	0	20	0	13	8	S			9	13	9	13	9	12	3	14	0	3	13	6	4	1	6	Pabna.			19					
...	11	12	11	12	8	8	T			10	0	10	0	10	0	3	12	0	3	11	0	4	0	0	Dacca.			20					
...	5	8	5	8	8	0	U			8	0	8	0	8	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	4	6	0	Mymensingh.			21					
...	V			9	13	9	13	8	12	4	4	0	4	4	0	4	10	0	Faridpur.			22					
...	W			10	0	10	0	10	0	3	12	0	3	12	0	4	0	0	Backergunge.			23					

BENGAL.

BURDWAN DIVISION.

PRESIDENCY DIVISION.

RAJSHAHI DIVISION.

DACCA DIVISION.

K. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt (panga) per rupee are :—Nator 9 seers ; Nowgong 9½ seers.

At Alipur Duars the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.

N. The retail price of salt at Kurseong and Siliguri is 8 seers per rupee.

N. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Kurigram 8 seers ; Gaibanda 10 seers ; Nilphamari 9 seers.

O. At Sirajganj the retail price of salt is $10\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee.
P. In the ...

Q. In the marts in the interior of the district the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Madanganj 10 seers 10 chitaks ; Manikganj 9 seers ; Munshirhat 10 seers 10 chitaks ; Mirkadim 10 seers 10 chitaks.

Q. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Kishorganj 9 seers 6 chitaks; Jamalpur 9 seers 7 chitaks; Karghari 8 seers; Netrokona 8 seers.

8. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Goalundo 10 seers (panga); Madaripur 10½ seers (crushed).

8. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Goalundo 10 seers (panga) ; Madaripur 10½ seers (crushed).

PRICES-CURRENT (retail) of Food-grains and Salt in the Head-quarters

		QUANTITIES PER RUPEE IN															
Number.	DISTRICTS.	WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			JOWAR OR CHOLU (Sorghum Vulgare).			
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
BENGAL—concluded.																	
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.	24	Tippera	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	8 0	10 10	12 8	9 0	...	...	...
	25	Noakhali	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	8 0	11 4	11 4	8 8	...	...	...
	26	Chittagong	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 4	10 0	7 0	10 0	11 12	10 0	...	...	...
BIHAR.																	
PATNA DIVISION.	27	Patna*	...	...	14 0	11 0	...	23 0	14 8	...	11 8	8 0	...	15 0	9 0	...	24 0
	28	Gaya	...	14 0	14 0	9 4	21 8	23 0	12 0	8 0	8 0	6 0	14 0	14 0	7 12	21 8	17 8 9 8
	29	Shahabad	...	{ 13 0 & 14 0	{ 13 8 & 14 0	{ 9 8 & 10 0	{ 18 0 & 18 8	18 0	11 8	{ 6 8 & 7 0	7 0	{ 7 8 & 8 0	{ 11 8 & 13 8	{ 11 8 & 13 0	8 4	...	...
	30	Saran	...	13 0	13 0	10 8	20 0	18 0	13 0	7 0	7 0	6 0	12 0	11 0	9 0	...	...
	31	Champaran	...	14 0	14 0	9 0	23 0	24 0	14 0	6 8	6 8	6 4	11 8	13 8	8 12	...	...
	32	Muzaffarpur	...	14 0	14 0	9 8	20 0	20 0	12 0	7 0	6 0	6 8	13 0	12 0	8 0	...	...
	33	Darbhangha	...	12 0	12 0	8 8	18 8	16 0	11 0	6 8	6 8	6 8	11 0	11 0	8 0	...	...
BHAGALPUR DIVISION.	34	Monghyr	...	15 3½	16 12½	9 15½	25 3½	21 0	13 5½	6 4½	6 4½	6 13½	11 13	12 1½	8 1	...	...
	35	Bhagalpur	...	13 14	13 12	9 8	20 4	20 0	12 10	11 6	11 4	6 8	13 14	13 12	8 14	...	...
	36	Purnea (Kasba)	...	16 0	12 0	8 0	...	...	...	12 0	14 0	7 0	14 8	15 8	7 8	...	...
	37	Malda (English Bazar).	...	14 0	14 0	10 0	...	...	...	10 0	9 0	8 0	13 0	14 0	9 0	...	...
	38	Sonthal Parganas.	...	11 0	11 0	7 12	13 0	13 0	...	9 0	9 0	7 8	13 0	13 0	8 2	...	...
ORISSA.																	
ORISSA DIVISION.	39	Cuttack	...	8 13	8 13	7 9	...	...	...	10 8	10 8	8 9	13 13	15 2	11 13	...	...
	40	Balasore	...	13 0	13 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	13 0	10 0	13 0	15 0	12 0	...	...
	41	Puri	...	8 2	8 2	6 9	...	...	...	13 2	10 8	7 14	15 12	15 12	11 13	...	...
CHOTA NAGPUR.																	
CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.	42	Hazaribagh	...	11 0	11 0	8 0	18 0	16 0	10 0	6 0	6 0	6 0	12 0	12 0	8 0	...	...
	43	Lohardaga	...	{ 6 0 to 10 0	{ 6 0 to 12 0	{ 5 8 to 8 8	14 0	...	9 0	{ 9 0 to 9 8	9 0	{ 6 8 to 7 0	{ 12 0 to 12 8	{ 11 8 to 12 0	8 0	...	...
	44	Palamanu	...	14 10	14 5	8 12	23 10	23 8	13 8	12 6	12 6	6 12	13 8	13 0	6 14	...	...
	45	Manbhum	...	10 0	11 0	8 8	20 0	18 0	13 0	9 12	10 0	8 0	15 8	15 0	8 12	...	...
46	Singhbhum	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	...	...	...	14 0	14 0	9 0	16 0	16 0	10 0	...	...

* Return not received.

- T. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Chandpur 9 seers ; Brahmanbaria 10 seers.
 U. At Feni H^{ts} the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
 V. At Cox's Bazar the retail price of salt (panga) is 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee.
 V(1). At Nawada the retail price of salt is 9 seers per rupee.
 W. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Bhabua 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers ; Sasaram 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers ; Buxar return not received.
 X. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Siwan 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers ; Gopalganj (Mirganj) 12 seers 2 chittacks.
 Y. At Bettiah the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.
 Z. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Hajipur 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers and Sitamarhi 11 seers.
 a. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Samastipur 10 seers ; Madhubani 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers.
 b. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Begusarai 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ seers ; Jamui 10 seers.

OF 80 TOLAHs.

OF CUMBU.
 (trans. typ. 1.
 cum.)

Next preceding re-
turn.

Corresponding re-
turn of last year.

MARUA OR RAGI.
(Eleusine Corocana.)

Present return	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.
1870	1869	1868
1871	1870	1869
1872	1871	1870
1873	1872	1871
1874	1873	1872
1875	1874	1873
1876	1875	1874
1877	1876	1875
1878	1877	1876
1879	1878	1877
1880	1879	1878
1881	1880	1879
1882	1881	1880
1883	1882	1881
1884	1883	1882
1885	1884	1883
1886	1885	1884
1887	1886	1885
1888	1887	1886
1889	1888	1887
1890	1889	1888
1891	1890	1889
1892	1891	1890
1893	1892	1891
1894	1893	1892
1895	1894	1893
1896	1895	1894
1897	1896	1895
1898	1897	1896
1899	1898	1897
1900	1899	1898
1901	1900	1899
1902	1901	1900
1903	1902	1901
1904	1903	1902
1905	1904	1903
1906	1905	1904
1907	1906	1905
1908	1907	1906
1909	1908	1907
1910	1909	1908
1911	1910	1909
1912	1911	1910
1913	1912	1911
1914	1913	1912
1915	1914	1913
1916	1915	1914
1917	1916	1915
1918	1917	1916
1919	1918	1917
1920	1919	1918
1921	1920	1919
1922	1921	1920
1923	1922	1921
1924	1923	1922
1925	1924	1923
1926	1925	1924
1927	1926	1925
1928	1927	1926
1929	1928	1927
1930	1929	1928
1931	1930	1929
1932	1931	1930
1933	1932	1931
1934	1933	1932
1935	1934	1933
1936	1935	1934
1937	1936	1935
1938	1937	1936
1939	1938	1937
1940	1939	1938
1941	1940	1939
1942	1941	1940
1943	1942	1941
1944	1943	1942
1945	1944	1943
1946	1945	1944
1947	1946	1945
1948	1947	1946
1949	1948	1947
1950	1949	1948
1951	1950	1949
1952	1951	1950
1953	1952	1951
1954	1953	1952
1955	1954	1953
1956	1955	1954
1957	1956	1955
1958	1957	1956
1959	1958	1957
1960	1959	1958
1961	1960	1959
1962	1961	1960
1963	1962	1961
1964	1963	1962
1965	1964	1963
1966	1965	1964
1967	1966	1965
1968	1967	1966
1969	1968	1967
1970	1969	1968
1971	1970	1969
1972	1971	1970
1973	1972	1971
1974	1973	1972
1975	1974	1973
1976	1975	1974
1977	1976	1975
1978	1977	1976

S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
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100	200	300	400	500
100	200	300	400	500
100	200	300	400	500
100	200	300	400	500

200	205	210	215	220
225	230	235	240	245

[illegible]

107	108	22	0	22	0	..
109	110	20	0	20	0	11

Figure 1 displays a 2x6 grid of plots showing the time evolution of the probability distribution $P(x)$ for different values of α . The top row shows $\alpha = 0.0, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5$. The bottom row shows $\alpha = 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0, 1.1$. As α increases, the distribution becomes more peaked and shifts to the right.

18 0 18 0 1

18	0	19	0
16	0		

97

KANGNI OR KAKUN
ITALIAN MILLET,
(*Setaria italica*.)

GRAM, C
CHHOLA, K
OR STU
(*Cler aris*)

Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	re- Corresponding turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.
-----------------	-----------------------------	--	-----------------	-----------------------------

S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.
...
...	8 8	7 1
...	8 12	8 4

...	12 0	13 0	...	18 8
11 0	11 0	8 8	17 12	17 8
...	...	...	13 8 19 0	18 0
8 0	10 0	10 0	17 0	16 8
...	...	...	17 8	17 0
...	...	...	16 0	16 0
...	...	...	15 8	14 0

...	12 13	...	18 10	16 10
...	...	...	17 0	17 0
...	...	...	16 0	13 0
13 0	...	...	20 0	16 0
...	...	...	13 0	13 0

Biri or kaka
Chhola.

...	...	...	14 7	14 7
...	...	...	10 0	10 0
...	...	...	12 0	13 0
...	...	...	11 0	11 4

...	...	...	14 8	14 0
...	...	...	8 0	8 0
...	...	...	12 0	12 0
...	...	...	21 0	20 4
...	...	...	13 0	13 0
...	...	...	9 0	9 0

Station Bazars of the Districts of Bengal on the 30th April 1898—(concluded).

INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE. (Zea mays.)												ARHAR OR THUR, CADJAN PEA. (Cajanus indicus.)			SALT.			WHOLESALE PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 SEERS.			DISTRICTS.	Number.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.										
S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
BENGAL—concluded.																								
...
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- c. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Banka 10 seers; Madhupura 9 seers; Supaul 10 seers.
d. In the Araria and Kishanganj subdivisions the retail price of salt is 9 seers per rupee.
e. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Deoghur 10 seers (panga); Godda 9 seers (mixed); Jamtara 9 seers (panga); Rajmahal 10 seers (karkatch); Pakour return not received.
f. In the Jajpur and Kendrapara subdivisions the retail price of salt (panga) is 9 seers per rupee.
g. At Bhadrak the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.
h. At Khurda the retail price of salt is 13 seers per rupee.
i. At Giridi the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.
j. At Gobindpur the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.

Published for general information.

M. FINUCANE,
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT (wholesale) of Food-grains, Firewood,

Number.	PLACES.	RICE (BEST SORT).			COMMON RICE (<i>mota chaul</i>).			WHEAT (<i>Triticum sativum</i>).			BARLEY (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>).		
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1	Calcutta	5 4 0	5 4 0	6 0 0	3 4 0	3 12 0	4 12 0	3 8 0	3 10 0	4 4 0	2 6 0	2 10 0	3 4 0
2	Burdwan	3 9 0	3 9 0	5 12 0	3 1 0	3 0 0	4 10 0	3 4 0	3 4 0	...	...	...	...
3	Midnapore	3 12 0	3 8 0	4 10 0	3 1 0	3 0 0	3 14 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Pabna	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	3 5 3	3 5 3	4 6 0	3 2 3	2 10 0	4 4 0	...	...	...
5	Rangpur	4 12 0	4 12 0	7 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	5 6 0	4 0 0	5 0 0	5 8 0	...	...	...
6	Dacca	4 3 0	3 14 0	4 14 0	3 7 0	3 4 0	4 3 0	2 14 0	2 12 0	3 4 0	1 12 0	1 8 0	2 4 0
7	Chittagong	4 12 0	4 0 0	5 8 0	4 0 0	3 6 0	4 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Patna*	...	3 7 0	4 12 0	...	2 8 0	4 6 0	...	2 12 0	3 6 0	...	1 9 0	2 10 0
9	Muzaffarpur	5 11 6	6 10 6	6 2 6	3 1 6	3 5 3	5 0 0	2 13 6	2 13 6	4 3 6	1 9 6	2 0 0	3 1 6
10	Bhagalpur	3 7 6	3 8 6	5 5 0	2 13 6	2 14 0	4 8 0	2 13 6	2 14 0	4 3 6	1 15 0	2 0 0	3 1 6
11	Cuttack	3 6 6	3 6 6	4 5 6	2 12 6	2 8 6	3 3 3	4 0 0	4 0 0	5 1 0	...	...	...
12	Ranchi	{ 4 4 0 to 4 7 0 }	4 7 0	{ 5 11 0 to 6 2 0 }	{ 3 3 0 to 3 5 0 }	{ 3 5 0 to 3 8 0 }	5 0 0	{ 4 0 0 to 6 10 6 }	{ 3 5 0 to 6 10 6 }	{ 4 11 0 to 7 4 0 }	2 13 6	...	4

* Return not received.

CALCUTTA,
The 10th May 1898.

SAR OR CHOLUM (<i>Sorghum vulgare</i>).			BAJRA OR CUMBU (<i>Pennisetum typhoideum</i>).			MARUA OR RAGI (<i>Eleusine corocana</i>).			GRAM, CHANA, CHOLA, KADALAY, OR SUNAGA (<i>Cicer arietinum</i>).		
Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
16	17		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
0 2 4 0	3 4 0	3 0 0	2 10 0	4 8 0	...	...	...	2 12 0	2 12 0	3 10 0	
...	2 12 0	2 12 0	3 14 0	
...	
...	2 8 6	2 6 6	4 0 0	
...	3 2 0	3 4 0	4 0 0	
...	3 5 0	3 8 0	4 0 0	
...	4 8 0	4 12 0	5 0 0	
1 10 0	2 1 6	3 4 0	
...	1 13 0	...	...	...	...
...	2 5 0	2 5 6	3 6 3	
...	Biri or kalai.			
...	2 10 6	2 10 6	3 0 9	
...	3 5 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	
...	5 0 0		to 5 11 0	

PRICES PER MAUND

INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE (<i>Zea mays</i>).			ARHAR DAL OR THUR - CADJAN PEA (<i>Cajanus indicus</i>).			LINSEED.			MUSTARD AND RAPESEED.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
2 1 0	2 0 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 4 0	3 14 0	3 14 0	4 4 0	3 14 0	4 0 0	4 4 0
...	...	...	3 4 0	3 4 0	4 14 0	...	...	...	3 13 0	3 12 0	4 4 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	3 8 0	3 8 0	4 0 0	4 8 0	4 6 0	4 12 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0
...	...	...	2 0 0	2 0 0	4 7 6	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0
2 0 0	2 0 0	4 0 0	5 4 0	5 8 0	5 8 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	11 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 4 0
...	...	...	3 4 0	3 4 0	4 2 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 4 0
...	1 11 0	...	...	1 13 0	2 9 0	...	2 12 0	3 4 0	...	3 7 0	3 8 0
2 0 0	2 0 0	4 0 0	3 5 6	3 10 0	5 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 10 0	1 10 9	3 8 0	2 4 0	2 2 0	3 0 0	3 14 0	3 5 0	3 12 0	4 0 0	4 2 0	4 4 0
...	...	...	2 5 6	2 5 6	2 14 6	...	...	...	4 3 6	4 3 6	4 4 0
...	...	...	4 7 0	5 0 0	7 4 0	3 1 0	3 1 0	6 11 0	3 1 0	3 1 0	4 4 0
...	...	...	5 0 0	...	8 0 0	...	...	...	3 5 0	3 10 0	4 4 0

STANDARD SEERS.

TIL OR JINJILI SEED.			SUGAR (RAW).			COTTON, CLEANED.			JUTE.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
0 0	4 0 0	4 4 0	4 14 0	4 13 0	5 0 0	16 8 0	16 8 0	17 8 0	4 4 0	4 8 0	5 0 0
...	...	...	4 6 0	4 12 0	4 5 0	16 0 0	14 8 0	18 0 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	5 0 0	4 10 0	4 12 0	18 0 0	18 0 0	20 0 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	4 0 0	4 0 0	3 8 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	2 12 0	2 12 0*	4 3 6
...	...	...	5 8 0	5 8 0	5 8 0	...	...	...	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 8 0
...	...	...	6 0 0	6 0 0	4 8 0	...	...	...	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 8 0
...	...	...	6 0 0	5 8 0	5 8 0	14 8 0	14 0 0	13 8 0	...	...	...
...	3 7 0	4 0 0	...	3 12 0	3 12 0	...	14 0 0	15 0 0	...	2 8 0	2 8 0
...	...	...	3 10 0	3 10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	4 0 0	3 7 0	...	15 8 0	15 0 0	18 0 0	...	...	...
3 10 6	3 10 6	3 5 0	5 12 0	5 12 0	4 12 0	24 8 0	24 8 0	20 8 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	4 7 0 to 5 0 0	4 12 0 to 5 0 0	5 11 0 to 5 14 6	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	...	...	...

* Rs. 3-12-0 shown in last return was a mistake for Rs. 2-12-0.

GHI (CLARIFIED BUTTER).			TOBACCO LEAF.			HIDES (COW).			GRASS.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
33 0 0	34 0 0	30 0 0	6 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	245-0-0 per 100 pieces.	250-0-0 per 100 pieces.	250-0-0 per 100 pieces.	8 0 0	7 4 0	7 0 0
33 0 0	32 0 0	26 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 0 0	No import	32 0 0	Madhukhali. No import.	4 8 0	5 4 0	Uncleaned hides, per piece— 0 8 0 to 2 0 0	0 8 0 to 2 0 0	0 8 0 to 2 2 0	...	...	...
40 0 0	40 0 0	27 0 0	Pulta. 6 4 0	6 4 0	6 8 0	Cleaned hides, per piece— 0 12 0 to 2 12 0	0 12 0 to 2 12 0	0 12 0 to 2 6 0	...	...	...
34 0 0	33 0 0	30 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	8 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 0 0	35 0 0	33 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	3 8 0	...	...	...	8	7	6
40 0 0	40 0 0	30 0 0	6 8 0	6 8 0	7 8 0	25 0 0 per maund.	25 0 0 per maund.	27 0 0 per maund.	4 0 0	4 0 0	3 8
...	30 0 0	22 0 0	...	3 0 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	...	0 5 0	0 4
32 0 0	32 0 0	22 13 9	10 0 0	10 0 0	11 7 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
35 0 0	34 2 0	25 10 0	5 0 0	4 0 0	5 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
36 0 0	36 0 0	30 8 0	5 8 0	5 8 0	4 0 0	25 0 0 per maund.	25 0 0 per maund.	22 0 0 per kahan.	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0
32 0 0 to 40 0 0	32 0 0 to 40 0 0	26 10 0 to 32 0 0	8 0 0 to 13 0 0	8 0 0 to 13 0 0	8 0 0 to 13 0 0	1 4 0 per piece.	1 4 0 per piece.	2 0 0 per maund.	0 8 8	0 8 4	0 4

the undermentioned Marts of Bengal on the 30th April 1898.

STRAW.			JUAR STALKS.			PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 STANDARD SEERS.									MARTS.
						IRON.			FIREWOOD.			SALT.			
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	
63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
0 0	5 6 0	5 4 0	...	...	...	6 0 0	6 0 0	5 0 0	0 7 0	0 7 0	0 7 0	3 7 0	3 7 0	3 9 0	1. Calcutta.
	per kahan.												Panga.		
0 0	5 0 0	7 7 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	2. Burdwan.
	per kahan.														
12 0	1 10 0	2 0 0	...	...	...	{ 4 0 0 to 4 12 0	{ 4 8 0 to 5 0 0	{ 4 4 0 to 4 8 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	{ 3 11 0 Panga. 3 8 0	{ 3 10 0 3 7 0	{ 3 15 0 3 11 0	3. Midnapore.
	per kahan.											Crushed.			
0 0	1 0 0	0 13 8	...	...	...	7 8 0	7 8 0	8 0 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 14 0	3 13 6	4 1 6	4. Pabna.
	per maund.											Panga.			
8	7	10	...	...	...	6 8 0	6 8 0	6 0 0	0 5 0	0 7 0	0 5 0	4 0 0	4 8 0	4 0 0	5. Rangpur.
	bundles per rupee.														
...	...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 8 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 4 0	3 12 0	3 11 0	4 0 0	6. Dacca.
...	...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 4 0	...	...	...	3 12 0	3 12 0	0 5 0 0	7. Chittagong.
...	0 5 0	0 5 0	...	...	...	...	3 0 0	3 0 0	...	0 5 0	0 5 0	...	3 8 0	3 8 0	8. Patna.
	per maund.											Panga.			
...	...	...	...	...	...	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	9. Muzaffarpur.
...	...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	0 6 0	0 4 9	0 4 3	3 14 0	3 12 0	4 0 0	10. Bhagalpur.
	...	...										Panga.			
10 0	2 10 0	3 3 0	...	...	...	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	0 4 6	0 4 6	0 4 0	3 1 0	3 1 0	3 0 0	11. Cuttack.
	per kahan.											Kurkutch.			
	No fixed rate.		...	...	...	5 11 0	5 11 0	5 11 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	4 2 0	4 2 0	5 0 0	12. Ranchi.
												Panga.			

M. FINUCANE,
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

Abstract of the Results of Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory in the month of April 1898.

	Inches.	Date.	Hour.
The mean pressure of the month	29.741		
The average pressure of April from 24 years' registers ...	29.752		
The highest pressure in the month	30.012	13th	10
The lowest pressure in the month	29.572	26th	16
The range of pressure	0.440		
	Hours.		
The total number of hours of bright sunshine during the month	275.9		
The maximum possible number of hours of sunshine ...	378.9		
	°		
The mean temperature of the month	84.7		
The average temperature of April from 24 years' registers ...	84.7		
The highest temperature in the month	103.4	8th	
The lowest temperature in the month	67.8	13th	
The range of temperature during the month	35.6		
The mean daily range of temperature	18.2		
The greatest range of temperature in one day	25.7	8th	
	Per cent.		
The mean humidity of the month	70		
The average humidity of April from 24 years' registers ...	69		
	Inches.		
The mean vapour tension of the month	0.834		
The average vapour tension of April from 9 years' registers ...	0.861		
The mean cloud proportion of the month	2.59		
The average cloud proportion of April from 21 years' registers	2.70		
	Ins.		
The total rainfall of the month	1.04		
The total rainfall indicated by a Beckley's self-registering rain-gauge (mouth of the gauge about 52 feet above the ground)	1.00		
The average fall of April from 48 years' registers	2.81		
The greatest fall in 24 hours	0.58	17th	
	Days.		
The number of rainy days in the month	4		
The average number of rainy days in April from 24 years' registers	8		
	°		
The mean maximum equilibrium temperature of solar radiation during the month	149.2		
The mean difference of sun and air temperatures	54.8		
The greatest sun temperature	155.8	20th	
The greatest excess of sun over air temperature	63.2	20th	
The mean temperature of the nocturnal radiation thermometer on woollen cloth	72.6		
The mean depression of the nocturnal radiation thermometer below the minimum air temperature at 4 feet above the ground	3.7		
The greatest depression of the nocturnal radiation thermometer below the minimum air temperature	6.6	1st	
	Miles.		
The mean movement of the wind per day	160.8		
The greatest movement of the wind in one day	303.0	29th	
The greatest movement of the wind in one hour	20.0	16th, 8 to 9 p.m. & 26th 9 to 10 a.m.	

The number of hours with winds from each of the 8 points—

N. 3, N.E. 11, E. 27, S.E. 39, S. 334, S.W. 259, W. 11, N.W. 3, Calm 33.

The results of observations at the Alipore Observatory are not rigorously comparable with the registers of past years (at the Park Street Observatory). The barometer is about 3 feet higher at Alipore, and, other things being equal, reads therefore .003 lower. The diurnal range of temperature is also greater at Alipore, and the mean temperature apparently about 0.2° lower; and, finally, the thermometer which furnished the record of temperature at the Surveyor-General's Office, during 20 years and upwards is found to read 0.6 higher than the Kew standard thermometer, which is the standard of reference at the present Observatory.

J. H. GILLILAND,

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, GOVT. OF INDIA,
Calcutta, the 9th May 1898.

For Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of India.

Abstract of the Results of the Barometric and Thermometric Observations taken at 10 a.m. at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, in the month of April 1898.

	Inches.	Date.
The mean pressure at 10 A.M. during the month	29.812	
The mean temperature at 10 A.M. during the month	89.1	
The highest temperature during the month	105.0	
The lowest temperature during the month	69.1	
The absolute range of temperature during the month	35.9	
The mean daily range of temperature during the month	19.9	
The greatest range of temperature in one day during the month	26.3	13th.
The mean 10 A.M. humidity during the month	66	
The mean 10 A.M. vapour tension during the month	.906	
The total rainfall of the month	1.92	
The greatest fall in 24 hours	1.02	15th
The number of rainy days in the month	4 days.	

J. H. GILLILAND,

For Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,

The 9th May 1898.

Results of the Barometrical and Thermometrical Observations taken at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, from 1st to 7th May 1898.

MONTH.	Date.	Pressure at 10 A.M. corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.						HYGROMETRY.			Rainfall, past 24 hours.
			Daily mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Dry bulb at 10 A.M.	Wet bulb at 10 A.M.	Vapour tension at 10 A.M.	Dew point at 10 A.M.	Humidity at 10 A.M.	
1898.		Inches.	°	°		°	°	°	Inches.	°	%	Inches.
May	1st	29.698	89.8	98.8	18.0	80.8	92.6	83.5	1.026	80.0	67	Nil.
"	2nd	.668	89.3	97.8	17.0	80.8	92.1	82.5	.982	78.7	66	"
"	3rd	.683	89.4	97.5	16.2	81.3	91.6	82.5	.989	78.9	67	"
"	4th	.713	89.3	96.7	14.8	81.9	91.6	83.0	1.014	79.7	69	"
"	5th	.675	88.9	98.0	18.2	79.8	91.5	81.5	.942	77.4	64	"
"	6th	.666	89.5	100.0	21.0	79.0	93.4	81.5	.915	76.6	58	"
"	7th	.653	88.8	98.4	19.2	79.2	91.1	79.5	.853	74.4	59	"

The mean 10 A.M. pressure of the seven days	29.679
The mean temperature of the seven days	89.3
The extreme variation of temperature	21.0
The maximum temperature	100.0
	%
The mean 10 A.M. relative humidity of the seven days	64
The total fall of rain from 1st to 7th May 1898	Nil.

The daily mean temperatures are the crude means of maximum and minimum temperatures.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,

The 9th May 1898.

J. H. GILLILAND,

For Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

Vital Statistics of Towns in Bengal with a population of 20,000 and over during the month of February 1898.

DISTRICTS.	TOWNS.	Population under registra- tion.	BIRTHS.		CHOLERA.		SMALL-POX.		FEVER.		DYSENTERY AND DIARRHÆA.		INJURY.		OTHER CAUSES.		TOTAL OF ALL CAUSES.		AVERAGE OF CORRESPONDING MONTH OF PRE- VIOUS FIVE YEARS.		REMARKS.
			Number re- gistered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number re- gistered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number re- gistered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number re- gistered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number re- gistered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number re- gistered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number re- gistered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number re- gistered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	Number re- gistered.	Ratio per 1,000 of population	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Burdwan	1. Burdwan	34,477	82	18.00	19	6.96	1	3.6	55	19.08	17	5.88	1	3.6	9	3.12	81	28.08	138	47.98	
Midnapore	2. Midnapore	32,354	47	17.40	2	7.2	7	3.96	72	26.76	12	4.44	1	3.6	19	6.96	124	46.08	102	37.92	
Hoochly	3. Hoochly and Chinsura	33,066	53	18.84	3	7.2	11	1.2	43	15.24	26	9.36	1	3.6	30	10.80	100	36.24	123	36.24	
Howrah	4. Serampore	35,332	53	17.64	7	7.2	1	3.6	82	27.56	39	9.96	1	3.6	22	7.52	134	44.64	134	44.64	
	5. Howrah	116,006	245	25.20	1	3.6	1	3.6	130	15.56	64	6.48	1	3.6	79	8.04	301	30.96	310	31.80	
	6. Cossipore-Chitpur	31,433	90	29.84	7	7.2	1	3.6	28	9.84	4	1.44	1	3.6	3	1.08	34	12.96	31	19.44	
	7. Manikpala	32,865	91	29.84	6	7.2	1	3.6	19	9.84	5	1.80	1	3.6	5	1.80	31	12.96	34	12.96	
	8. Barnagore	34,378	58	15.20	6	7.2	1	3.6	41	14.28	6	2.04	1	3.6	5	1.80	61	21.24	73	26.44	
	9. South Suburban	69,642	59	10.08	1	3.6	1	3.6	08	11.64	4	6.0	1	3.6	13	2.16	85	14.64	124	21.36	
24-Parganas	10. South Barrackpore including Titagarh Municipality.	35,647	36	12.00	1	3.6	1	3.6	57	19.08	11	3.60	1	3.6	2	6.0	70	23.52	67	22.44	
	11. Nabhatal	29,724	41	23.40	3	1.68	1	1.68	51	29.16	8	4.56	2	1.08	1	4.8	65	37.08	94	37.92	
	12. North Barrackpore	20,880	16	9.12	1	1.68	1	1.68	17	9.72	4	2.88	1	1.08	4	2.88	32	18.24	75	38.4	
Calcutta	13. Calcutta	681,560	518	14.40	89	1.56	11	1.2	432	7.92	268	4.98	40	6.0	796	13.92	1,056	29.04	2,064	36.24	
Nadia	14. Krishnagar	25,460	44	20.64	2	7.2	1	3.6	37	17.40	3	1.32	1	3.6	3	3.48	47	27.04	61	36.24	
Murshidabad	15. Santipur	30,457	67	26.40	1	4.8	1	3.6	40	16.72	1	3.6	1	3.6	6	3.00	52	26.52	45	30.72	
Rajshahi	16. Berhampore	23,515	41	20.88	1	4.8	1	3.6	44	22.44	4	1.8	1	3.6	3	1.68	43	24.00	42	36.24	
Palna	17. Rampur Boalia	31,497	39	16.80	1	4.8	1	3.6	33	18.48	5	2.76	1	3.6	3	1.68	18	9.24	39	14.88	
Dacca	18. Srejskanj	82,321	96	13.32	1	1.2	1	1.2	15	7.68	1	1.44	1	1.08	1	1.68	170	25.92	170	25.92	
Chittagong	19. Dacca	124,039	160	23.28	1	5.40	1	1.2	109	16.84	26	3.72	1	1.08	76	17.04	212	30.88	30	19.44	
	20. Chittagong	166,192	13	6.48	1	2.4	3	1.2	41	20.40	1	4.8	1	1.08	1	4.8	54	26.88	80	24.72	
Patna	21. Patna City	44,733	314	22.80	4	2.4	1	1.2	119	8.64	21	1.48	1	1.08	103	7.44	250	18.12	341	24.72	
	22. Bihar	47,723	103	25.32	1	1.2	1	1.2	33	8.98	1	1.48	1	1.08	21	5.98	66	14.04	90	24.84	
	23. Dinapore	44,419	75	20.16	1	1.2	1	1.2	29	7.80	2	2.4	1	1.08	18	5.40	135	20.04	201	19.08	
Gaya	24. Gaya	80,883	125	18.60	1	1.2	1	1.2	105	15.60	9	1.32	1	1.08	16	5.40	135	20.04	201	19.08	
Shahabad	25. Arrah	96,905	106	27.00	1	1.2	1	1.2	63	13.44	2	2.4	1	1.08	15	5.72	71	18.12	53	13.44	
	26. Sasaram	57,353	28	16.92	1	1.2	1	1.2	17	8.68	1	1.48	1	1.08	8	2.64	60	19.48	68	14.16	
Saran	27. Chapra	57,353	28	16.92	1	1.2	1	1.2	23	8.68	1	1.48	1	1.08	8	2.64	60	19.48	68	14.16	
Champarn	28. Bettiah	49,192	41	18.24	1	1.2	1	1.2	37	16.08	1	2.4	1	1.08	7	4.20	74	18.00	111	27.00	
Muzaffarpur	29. Muzaffarpur	21,487	75	23.40	1	1.2	1	1.2	66	16.48	1	2.4	1	1.08	14	7.80	36	20.04	63	35.16	
Darbhanga	30. Hajipur	73,551	42	21.12	1	1.2	1	1.2	17	9.48	1	2.4	1	1.08	14	7.80	36	20.04	63	35.16	
Monghyr	31. Darbhanga	137,551	130	26.64	1	1.2	1	1.2	58	12.12	7	1.96	1	1.08	66	10.68	142	25.16	195	31.80	
Rohalgur	32. Monghyr	57,077	127	22.52	1	1.2	1	1.2	67	10.92	4	1.96	1	1.08	27	3.64	135	18.84	188	24.72	
Cuttack	33. Bhubanga	69,106	129	22.63	1	1.2	1	1.2	79	13.68	8	1.96	1	1.08	15	3.64	100	17.88	146	25.32	
Outack	34. Bhubalpur	47,188	62	15.72	7	1.68	1	1.2	39	9.84	6	1.96	1	1.08	41	10.32	93	21.36	83	21.60	
Balasore	35. Cuttack	30,775	47	27.12	6	3.56	5	2.04	11	10.32	3	1.68	1	1.08	13	8.64	36	20.76	69	41.16	
Puri	36. Balasore	28,704	31	12.54	11	4.66	5	2.04	25	5.28	2	2.88	1	1.08	42	17.40	50	37.44	68	39.24	
Lohardaga	37. Ranchi	20,366	31	18.24	1	4.66	5	2.04	9	5.28	2	2.88	1	1.08	2	1.08	20	11.76	32	18.4	
	Total of all towns with a population of 20,000 and over.	2,329,521	3,452	17.64	170	84	30	1.2	2,238	11.52	883	3.00	78	3.6	1,535	7.80	4,634	23.76	5,723	29.40	
	Average of the corre- sponding month of pre- vious five years.	.....	4,300	22.08	482	2.40	113	4.8	2,833	14.88	620	3.36	68	2.4	1,497	7.68	5,723	29.40	...	...
	Difference + or -	.....	-898	-4.44	-312	-1.56	-83	-3.6	-655	-3.36	-86	-3.6	+10	+1.2	+38	+1.2	-1,088	-5.64	...	...

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSIONER FOR BENGAL.
The 10th May 1898.
H. J. DYSON, Surgeon-Major, F.R.C.S.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal.

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

*Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 30th April 1898,
as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.*

NATURE OF CARGO.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 30TH APRIL 1898.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 1ST MAY 1897.		
			Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
			No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy	...	...	138	28,525	377	93	33,585	449
Jute	...	...	18	9,025	135	17	13,675	169
Firewood	...	...	13	6,475	97	78	40,475	604
Other articles	...	...	496	1,12,130	1,556	534	1,65,335	2,354
Total	...	...	665	1,56,155	2,165	722	2,53,070	3,576

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

*Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 7th May 1898,
as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.*

NATURE OF CARGO.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 7TH MAY 1898.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 8TH MAY 1897.		
			Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
			No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy	...	...	125	37,740	538	156	22,825	312
Jute	...	...	31	16,125	245	8	8,755	139
Firewood	...	...	34	22,325	328	69	45,625	724
Other articles	...	...	467	1,27,585	1,814	511	1,60,325	2,274
Total	...	...	657	2,03,775	2,925	744	2,37,530	3,449

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Statement of Goods Traffic in staples carried during the four weeks ending 26th March 1898, as compared with the same period of 1897.

STAPLES.	1897.		1898.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Ocal & Coke carried for the public and foreign railways	73,09,074	8,85,250	85,43,321	11,46,407	12,34,247	2,61,247	...	...
Cotton, raw	1,53,663	69,776	1,51,770	75,372	...	...	1,893	24,404
Cotton, manufactured—								
1.—Twist & Yarn, European	6,044	6,042	7,387	6,707	1,343	665	...	...
2.—Ditto, Indian	23,422	9,446	28,875	13,157	5,453	3,711	...	...
3.—Piece-goods—European	1,83,630	1,80,905	1,89,142	2,12,473	5,512	31,568	...	...
4.—Ditto—Indian	17,617	21,616	18,974	10,825	1,357	...	...	10,791
Drugs and Chemicals—								
1.—Intoxicating, other than opium	693	969	705	114	...	...	488	855
2.—Non-intoxicating	10,582	9,749	12,812	10,294	2,230	545	...	...
Dyes and Tans—								
1.—Indigo	1,050	2,050	3,935	1,467	1,985	...	...	583
2.—Myrabolanis	24,728	6,362	38,129	9,616	13,400	3,254	...	...
3.—Cutch	2,702	1,105	1,676	778	...	...	1,026	327
4.—Turmeric	8,743	5,212	14,921	11,499	6,178	6,197	...	...
5.—Aniline dyes	292	192	124	59	...	...	168	135
6.—Others	6,314	2,526	17,490	2,565	11,056	89	...	...
Grain and Pulse—								
1.—Wheat	1,25,579	27,336	3,63,576	1,24,466	2,42,997	97,070	...	...
2.—Rice in the husk	1,08,710	23,421	1,04,249	9,989	...	...	4,470	13,433
3.—Rice not in the husk	15,92,308	5,78,816	7,44,244	1,44,708	...	...	8,48,064	4,34,168
4.—Jowar and bajra	22,606	3,095	86,356	9,547	63,850	6,452	...	...
5.—Gram & pulse	5,31,565	1,56,621	2,97,870	63,330	...	...	2,41,695	93,291
6.—Others	1,05,528	18,996	65,196	10,105	...	...	40,332	8,801
Hides and Skins—								
1.—Hides of cattle	86,494	60,051	88,847	58,709	2,353	...	...	2,310
2.—Skins of sheep, &c.	12,838	4,895	15,662	8,612	2,824	3,717	...	...
Horns	1,630	929	1,765	791	135	...	...	138
Jute—								
1.—Raw	69,560	17,961	1,73,152	39,655	1,03,592	21,694	...	...
2.—Gunny-bags and cloth	67,959	30,699	1,42,879	78,497	74,929	47,708	...	...
Lac—								
1.—Stick	28,976	11,476	36,161	8,234	7,185	...	...	3,240
2.—Shell	30,277	22,440	27,100	22,637	...	191	3,177	...
Leather, manufactured	4,404	4,512	5,727	6,270	1,323	1,758	...	...
Liquors—								
1.—Beer	14,284	4,340	13,845	5,344	...	1,004	439	...
2.—Spirits	1,567	1,737	1,913	1,927	346	190	...	...
3.—Wines	2,532	5,291	5,025	5,023	523	...	...	268
Metals—								
1.—Copper, unwrought	488	671	1,344	1,774	856	1,103	...	...
2.—Brass, ditto	1,280	576	2,052	1,914	772	1,338	...	...
3.—Copper, wrought	2,785	3,283	1,067	958	...	...	1,718	2,235
4.—Brass, ditto	14,765	7,866	17,825	7,208	3,120	...	...	648
5.—Iron	1,64,217	71,697	1,65,719	60,963	11,503	...	...	10,734
6.—Others	9,113	6,990	12,370	9,712	3,257	2,722	...	...
7.—Zinc & spelter	820	635	1,748	1,428	928	793	...	...
Oils—								
1.—Kerosine	92,633	38,464	93,345	39,698	6,712	1,204	...	...
2.—Castor	2,535	621	2,716	830	181	209	...	...
3.—Cocoanut	4,416	1,855	3,003	1,094	...	...	1,413	761
4.—Others	11,605	4,571	10,784	4,558	...	...	821	13
Oil-seeds—								
1.—Linseed	64,504	16,918	2,35,614	58,079	1,71,110	41,161	...	...
2.—Rape and mustard	3,13,442	71,518	3,61,405	79,889	77,963	8,371	...	...
3.—Til or jinjili	13,731	1,718	36,558	6,340	22,827	4,622	...	...
4.—Poppy	7,979	2,100	3,890	1,201	...	...	4,089	89
5.—Earthnuts	86	32	241	28	...	...	...	...
6.—Castor	64,765	13,103	66,320	16,285	1,555	3,182	...	...
7.—Others	697	118	21,264	4,066	20,567	3,945	...	...
Opium	708	282	2,196	2,416	1,428	2,134	...	...
Paper and pasteboard	15,549	7,378	18,304	9,210	2,755	1,832	...	...
Provisions—								
1.—Ghee	43,721	33,797	40,975	25,594	...	...	2,746	8,203
2.—Dried fruits and nuts	8,701	6,877	10,311	6,372	1,610	495	...	...
3.—Others	55,364	33,554	56,896	31,884	1,532	...	...	1,670
4.—Potatoes	69,295	9,743	1,23,653	17,642	54,358	7,899	...	...
Railway plant & rolling-stock carried for the public & foreign railways—								
1.—Locomotive engines & tenders & parts thereof	...	...	...	...	...	...	92,425	20,070
2.—Carriages & trucks & parts thereof	95,443	21,549	3,015	970	...	...	...	...
3.—Steel rails & fish-plates	...	...	92,612	16,038	92,612	16,038	...	...
4.—Sleepers & keys of steel & cast iron	...	...	1,864	437	1,864	437	...	...
5.—Other sorts	5,40,907	1,66,079	3,49,416	47,978	...	...	1,91,491	1,19,001
Salt	6,95,236	1,02,901	5,75,772	1,04,935	...	2,034	1,19,464	...
Saltpetre, &c.—								
1.—Saltpetre	87,930	27,719	63,225	25,249	...	...	24,705	2,470
2.—Other saline substances	36,061	12,910	46,092	13,382	10,041	472	...	...
Silk, raw—								
1.—Foreign	82	5	...	...	...	...	82	5
2.—Indian	3,709	2,141	1,617	1,563	...	...	2,092	578
Silk piece-goods—								
1.—Foreign	11	36	5	19	...	...	6	17
2.—Indian	302	332	303	318	1	...	...	14

STAPLES.	1897.		1898.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Spices—								
1.—Betel-nuts ...	16,673	14,472	14,016	9,379	...	...	12,657	5,083
2.—Pepper ...	2,262	1,981	3,346	3,618	1,084	1,637	...	...
3.—Ginger ...	1,702	751	2,734	1,018	1,032	267	...	...
4.—Chillies ...	35,439	22,705	55,606	50,145	20,147	27,440	...	...
5.—Cardamoms ...	737	959	512	736	75	...	...	223
6.—Others ...	2,016	1,025	1,802	557	...	...	154	68
Stone and lime ...	4,32,474	59,469	4,05,667	46,682	...	...	26,907	12,787
Sugar—								
1.—Refined ...	6,507	3,373	10,498	5,084	3,991	1,711	...	...
2.—Unrefined ...	5,68,507	1,07,130	7,05,978	1,43,612	2,00,071	36,482	...	...
Tea—								
1.—Foreign ...	166	79	167	29	1	...	...	50
2.—Indian ...	1,751	1,771	1,967	1,842	216	71	...	...
Timber ...	2,55,582	43,490	1,46,324	22,618	...	...	1,09,238	20,872
Tobacco ...	90,024	42,881	53,060	15,985	...	...	56,964	26,546
Wool, raw ...	2,296	2,319	3,529	2,780	1,233	461	...	...
Wool, manufactured—								
1.—Piece-goods, European ...	153	330	701	905	548	575	...	...
2.—" " Indian ...	2,376	2,410	1,380	1,481	...	...	996	929
3.—Shawls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other articles of merchandise—								
1.—Firewood ...	29,680	2,357	33,215	1,705	3,635	...	...	652
2.—Indigo seed ...	52,968	17,824	27,867	9,681	...	...	25,101	8,143
3.—Mowah flower ...	15,161	3,555	5,743	1,261	...	...	9,418	2,504
4.—Oil-cake ...	69,891	11,339	68,982	10,957	...	...	909	382
5.—Paints & colours ...	28,333	5,627	11,552	5,865	...	235	16,781	...
6.—Seeds other than oilseeds ...	60,306	17,892	61,029	16,908	723	...	...	984
7.—Wooden articles ...	17,015	7,713	14,547	6,013	...	...	2,468	1,700
8.—Others ...	6,98,996	2,36,940	8,33,263	2,62,098	2,34,267	25,149	...	...
Total ...	1,52,68,375	1,34,81,102	1,61,41,495	33,20,598	8,73,120	...	...	1,61,504
Military stores ...	14,083	18,639	76,224	39,352	62,141	20,713	...	...
Coal for railway ...	4,96,767	30,529	10,66,287	89,675	5,68,520	53,146	...	...
Railway materials ...	11,73,848	37,314	16,43,066	79,940	4,69,218	42,626	...	...
Live-stock ...	...	4,964	...	4,031	...	...	...	933
Total ...	1,69,53,073	35,72,548	1,89,27,072	35,27,526	19,73,999	...	...	44,952

C. W. CLARKE, Assistant Auditor.

TRAFFIC AUDIT OFFICE, GOODS DIVISION, JAMALPUR, the 7th May 1898.

Weekly Return of Traffic Receipts on Indian Railways.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 23rd April 1898 on 1,705.09 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	*367,558	*3,72,775 3 6	48,61,254 20	9,91,082 11 0	22,311 0 0	13,86,168 14 0	90,520	1,78,553	2,68,553
Or per mile of railway ...	.....	218 10 0	.....	581 4 0	13 1 4	812 15 4	.....	.....	.....
For previous 15½ weeks of half-year ...	4,949,726	54,23,335 10 0	6,61,95,866 30	1,29,22,885 7 0	3,50,303 0 0	1,86,96,014 1 0	1,430,064	2,475,278	3,905,342
Total for 16½ weeks ...	5,313,284	57,96,110 13 0	7,10,57,121 10	1,39,13,968 2 0	3,72,704 0 0	2,00,82,782 15 0	1,529,584	2,653,531	4,183,115
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	315,733	3,00,973 1 2	45,75,541 30	8,53,121 3 5	23,015 7 6	11,77,109 12 1	88,641	153,243	2,42,124
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	176 12 7	.....	501 1 9	13 8 4	691 6 8	.....	.....	.....
Total for corresponding 16½ weeks of previous year ...	5,071,842	53,63,283 7 7	6,75,78,889 20	1,39,69,643 9 11	3,52,451 13 0	1,86,85,378 14 6	1,485,063	2,498,442	3,983,505

* The increase is in outward traffic.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 30th April 1898 on 1,705.09 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	(a) 397,518	3,92,330 4 0	45,26,806 30	9,31,128 11 0	22,162 0 0	13,45,621 0 0	89,166	179,011	2,68,177
Or per mile of railway ...	.....	230 1 6	.....	546 1 5	12 15 11	789 2 10	.....	.....	.....
For previous 16½ weeks of half-year.	5,314,200*	53,00,890 13 0*	7,15,38,014 10†	1,38,97,441 2 0†	3,70,121 0 0†	2,00,68,452 15 0	1,529,584	2,653,531	4,183,115
Total for 17½ weeks ...	5,711,724	61,93,221 11 0	7,60,64,821 0	1,48,28,569 13 0	3,92,283 0 0	2,14,14,074 8 0	1,618,760	2,832,542	4,451,302
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	316,267‡	3,04,506 3 7	42,36,877 30	8,67,315 7 0	28,614 1 9	12,00,435 12 4	89,743	151,925	2,41,668
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	178 13 10	.....	509 7 2	16 12 11	705 1 11	.....	.....	.....
Total for corresponding 17½ weeks of previous year ...	5,398,109‡	56,67,789 11 2	7,18,15,738 10	1,48,36,959 0 11	3,81,065 14 9	2,08,85,814 10 10	1,574,806	2,648,767	4,223,573

(a) The increase is due to movements of pilgrims and marriage parties.

* Added No. of passengers 922 and Rs. 4,780

† Ditto Mds. 4,80,893 and deducted .. 16,537

‡ Deducted .. 2,583

On account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the weeks ended 19th and 23rd April 1898.

TARKESSUR BRANCH RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 23rd April 1898 on 22.23 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	22,112	5,592 9 0	16,380 20	663 7 0	8 0 0	6,174 0 0	1,068	180	1,248
Or per mile of railway ...	.....	247 8 6	.....	29 13 6	0 5 9	277 11 9	.....	.....	.....
For previous 15½ weeks of half-year.	414,879	1,08,586 11 0	2,67,817 20	10,816 1 0	142 0 0	1,19,544 12 0	16,952	1,792	18,744
Total for 16½ weeks ...	436,991	1,14,089 4 0	2,84,198 0	11,479 8 0	150 0 0	1,25,718 12 0	18,020	1,912	19,932
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	21,801	4,662 12 0	18,498 10	761 7 0	4 15 0	5,429 3 0	1,098	90	1,188
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	209 12 0	.....	34 4 0	0 3 7	244 3 7	.....	.....	.....
Total for corresponding 16½ weeks of previous year ...	425,290	1,06,567 4 11	3,11,567 0	11,637 4 0	113 11 0	1,18,338 3 11	18,062	1,518	19,580

TARKESSUR BRANCH RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 30th April 1898 on 22·23 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
	(a)	Rs. A. P. (a)	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week ...	27,254	8,875 3 0	14,763 30	684 3 0	9 0 0	9,568 6 0	1,074	114	1,188
per mile of railway ...	.....	399 3 11	.....	30 12 5	0 6 6	430 6 10	.....	.....	.....
previous 16½ weeks of half-year ...	*436,949	*1,14,980 4 0	*2,83,916 0	*11,458 8 0	*152 0 0	1,26,590 12 0	18,020	1,912	19,932
Total for 17½ weeks ...	467,203	1,23,855 7 0	2,98,679 30	12,142 11 0	161 0 0	1,36,159 2 0	19,094	2,026	21,120
COMPARISON.									
for corresponding week previous year ...	21,291½	5,119 13 1	13,758 0	598 15 0	5 8 6	5,724 4 7	1,102	86	1,188
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	230 5 0	.....	26 15 1	0 4 0	257 8 1	.....	.....	.....
for corresponding 17½ weeks of previous year ...	446,582	1,11,687 2 0	3,25,325 0	12,256 3 0	119 3 6	1,24,062 8 6	19,164	1,604	20,768

The increase is due to movements of pilgrims and marriage parties.
 Added No. of passengers 2,958 and Rs. 891
 Deducted mounds 282 and " 21 } on account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the weeks ended 12th and 19th March 1898.
 Added " 2 }

DELHI-UMBALLA-KALKA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ended 23rd April 1898 on 162·24 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week ...	18,698	18,433 6 0	74,409 20	12,148 6 0	67 0 0	30,648 12 0	8,091	4,425	12,516
per mile of railway ...	.....	113 9 11	.....	74 14 1	0 6 7	188 14 7	.....	.....	.....
previous 16½ weeks of half-year ...	489,991	3,24,579 7 0	15,84,898 30	2,36,894 2 0	1,298 0 0	5,62,771 9 0	116,929	72,435	189,364
Total for 16½ weeks ...	508,689	3,43,012 13 0	16,59,308 10	2,40,042 8 0	1,395 0 0	5,93,420 5 0	125,020	76,860	201,880
COMPARISON.									
for corresponding week previous year ...	17,947½	17,585 1 7	65,149 10	9,637 11 0	80 10 0	27,303 6 7	7,033	3,427	10,460
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	109 9 4	.....	60 0 11	0 8 1	170 2 4	.....	.....	.....
for corresponding 16½ weeks of previous year ...	278,218½	2,49,533 15 0	14,40,937 30	1,79,295 5 0	1,054 4 0	4,29,883 8 0	109,667	61,440	171,107

DELHI-UMBALLA-KALKA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 30th April 1898 on 162·24 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week ...	18,844	16,963 2 0	75,081 0	12,004 3 0	63 0 0	28,970 5 0	7,110	5,162	12,272
per mile of railway ...	.....	104 3 0	.....	73 15 10	0 6 2	178 9 0	.....	.....	.....
previous 16½ weeks of half-year ...	512,153*	3,47,581 13 0*	16,75,573 10*	2,47,231 8 0*	1,331 0 0*	5,95,944 5 0	125,020	76,860	201,880
Total for 17½ weeks ...	530,997	3,64,284 15 0	17,50,654 10	2,59,235 11 0	1,394 0 0	6,24,914 10 0	132,130	82,022	214,152
COMPARISON.									
for corresponding week previous year ...	17,824	16,446 9 8	79,214 30	12,247 14 0	60 0 9	28,754 8 5	7,159	3,820	10,979
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	102 7 10	.....	76 5 2	0 6 0	179 3 0	.....	.....	.....
for corresponding 17½ weeks of previous year ...	296,042½	2,65,980 8 8	15,20,162 20	1,91,543 3 0	1,114 4 9	4,58,638 0 5	116,806	65,260	182,066

Added No. of passengers 3,464 and Rs. 4,369
 Do. Mds. 16,265 and deducted " 1,511 } on account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the weeks ended 12th and 19th March 1898.
 Deducted " 34 }

EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

(INCLUDING N. B., DACCA, K.-D., AND ASSAM-BIHAR SECTIONS.)

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 30th April 1898 on 818 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings, including ferry.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	238,140	1,35,430 0 0	7,93,350 0	1,26,000 0 0	29,210 0 0	2,90,700 0 0	36,500	35,624	72,124
Or per mile of railway ...	291	166 0 0	970 0	154 0 0	†23 0 0	†343 0 0	.....	.....	.....
For previous 15 weeks of half-year* ...	3,334,278	17,21,517 0 0	1,50,04,638 0	25,20,315 0 0	2,43,031 0 0	44,84,863 0 0	562,423	636,701	1,199,124
Total for 16 weeks ...	3,572,418	18,56,947 0 0	1,57,97,988 0	26,46,375 0 0	2,72,241 0 0	47,75,563 0 0	5,98,926	672,325	1,271,251
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding period of previous year ...	182,185	92,655 0 0	8,09,267 0	1,18,508 0 0	7,556 0 0	2,18,719 0 0	34,357	33,936	68,293
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	224	114 0 0	1,068 0	146 0 0	1 0 0	261 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	3,450,956	18,33,180 0 0	1,47,47,889 0	20,41,219 0 0	2,50,060 0 0	41,33,459 0 0	575,595	582,171	1,157,766

* Audited up to 12th March 1898.

† Excluding steamer earnings.

DACCA STATE RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 30th April 1898 on 86 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	23,320	7,860 0 0	29,280 0	3,010 0 0	160 0 0	11,090 0 0	2,646	1,186	3,832
Or per mile of railway ...	271	91 0 0	340 0	35 0 0	2 0 0	128 0 0	.....	.....	.....
For previous 15 weeks of half-year* ...	423,479	1,37,708 0 0	670,584 0	66,551 0 0	3,315 0 0	2,07,574 0 0	45,070	26,233	71,303
Total for 16 weeks ...	446,799	1,45,568 0 0	699,864 0	69,561 0 0	3,475 0 0	2,18,604 0 0	47,716	27,419	75,135
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	19,282	5,751 0 0	14,676 0	1,976 0 0	257 0 0	7,984 0 0	2,555	1,277	3,832
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	224	67 0 0	171 0	23 0 0	3 0 0	93 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	367,667	1,10,928 0 0	610,703 0	51,090 0 0	3,755 0 0	1,65,773 0 0	44,257	21,271	65,528

* Audited up to 12th March 1898.

BENGAL CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 30th April 1898 on 125 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	38,311	17,581 0 0	58,161 0	4,151 0 0	10,715 0 0	32,452 0 0	5,399	2,093	7,492
Or per mile of railway ...	306	141 0 0	465 0	33 0 0	86 0 0	260 0 0	.....	.....	.....
For previous 16 weeks of half-year* ...	5,09,467	2,24,461 0 0	10,08,460 0	70,490 0 0	35,597 0 0	3,30,548 0 0	78,144	36,196	1,14,340
Total for 17 weeks ...	5,47,778	2,42,042 0 0	10,66,621 0	74,646 0 0	46,312 0 0	3,63,000 0 0	83,543	38,299	1,21,842
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	30,615	11,378 0 0	79,555 0	4,368 0 0	42 0 0	15,795 0 0	4,520	2,968	7,488
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	245	91 0 0	636 0	35 0 0	.....	126 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	5,77,774	2,20,498 0 0	12,26,036 0	73,360 0 0	8,610 0 0	3,02,468 0 0	70,535	47,042	1,17,577

* Audited up to 26th February 1898.

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

(INCLUDES TIRHUT STATE RAILWAY.)

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending 23rd April 1898 on 854 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated), including steam-boat.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
Total traffic for the week on 854 miles open	141,730	(a) 52,700	5,22,410	(b) 78,650	17,290	(a) 1,48,700	19,898	(c) 27,251	47,149
per mile of railway	165.96	61.78	611.72	92.10	20.24	174.12	.....	.....	.....
or previous 15½ weeks of half-year (d)	1,704,630	7,38,695	80,34,488	10,72,835	2,63,449	20,74,979	283,715	368,620	652,335
Total for 16½ weeks	1,846,360	7,91,455	85,56,898	11,51,485	2,80,739	22,23,679	308,613	395,871	704,484
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year on 819 miles open	115,517	44,964	6,50,828	71,538	24,543	1,41,365	15,631	(e) 24,845	40,476
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year	141.05	54.93	794.66	87.35	30.33	172.61	.....	.....	.....
Total for corresponding date of previous year	1,832,790	7,38,605	83,65,193	9,35,474	2,93,795	19,67,874	250,826	364,511	615,337

(a) Increase due to no special cause.

(b) Decrease in weight and increase in freight is due to longer lead.

(c) Includes 534 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

(d) " audited figures up to week ending 19th February 1898.

(e) " 1,216 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Approximate earnings for the week ending 30th April 1898	17,849	0	0
Corresponding period of 1897	15,997	0	0
Increase	1,852	0	0
Receipts per mile for the week ending 30th April 1898	349	15	8
Ditto for the corresponding period of 1897	313	10	8
Increase	36	5	0
Receipts from 1st January to 30th April 1898	2,13,808	0	0
Corresponding period of 1897	2,17,302	0	0
Decrease	3,494	0	0



SUPPLEMENT TO The Calcutta Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1898.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

[Non-Subscribers to the GAZETTE may receive the SUPPLEMENT separately on payment of Six Rupees per annum if delivered in Calcutta, or Twelve Rupees if sent by Post.]

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Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 16th April, 1898.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR JOHN WOODBURN, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.
 The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES PAUL, K.C.I.E., Advocate-General of Bengal.
 The Hon'ble H. H. RISLEY, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble RAI DURGA GATI BANERJEA, BAHADUR, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble J. PRATT.
 The Hon'ble NAWAB SYUD AMER HOSSEIN, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble M. FINUCANE, C.S.I.
 The Hon'ble W. B. OLDHAM, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble R. B. BUCKLEY.
 The Hon'ble W. H. GRIMLEY.
 The Hon'ble SAHIBZADA MAHOMED BAKHTYAR SHAH, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble M. C. TURNER.
 The Hon'ble NOKENDRA NATH SEN.
 The Hon'ble KALI CHAKAN BANERJEE.
 The Hon'ble SURENDRANATH BANERJEE.
 The Hon'ble JATRA MOHAN SEN.
 The Hon'ble T. W. SPINK.

POLLUTION OF THE RIVER HOOGHLY.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked—

I have the honour to call attention to a question which I asked in Council on the 7th August last, regarding the pollution of the river Hooghly by the discharge into it of the sewage of mills on both banks of the river, and specially the pollution of the river caused by the new mill at Titagarh. The Chief Secretary, the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton, said in reply to the first part of the question that the matter has not escaped attention and is still under the consideration of the Sanitary Commissioner. With regard to the second part of my question, the Chief Secretary observed that the Sanitary Commissioner would be asked to enquire into the matter. Will the Government be pleased to state the result of the enquiries made with regard to both branches of the question?

The Hon'ble Mr. RISLEY replied:—

“Owing to the heavy demands on the medical service in Bengal, arising from the deputation of a number of officers to active military service and to plague duty, it has been impossible as yet to undertake the inquiry into the alleged pollution of the Hooghly by the drainage from mills and factories, which was referred to in the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton's reply given in Council on the 7th August, 1897. It was stated in that reply that the case of the new mill at Titagarh would be dealt with in connexion with the general question.”

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said:—“I may add to this reply that I have had an opportunity of hearing something about the pollution of the river at this particular point of its course, and the Hon'ble Member has my assurance that the matter will be enquired into and reported upon with the least possible delay.”

PLATFORM AT SEORAPHULI (EAST INDIAN RAILWAY).

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked—

I have the honour to call attention to a question which I asked in Council on the 7th August, 1897, in which I referred to the condition of the platform at the Seoraphuli station. In reply, the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton laid on the table a letter addressed to the Government by the Agent to the East Indian Railway Company—Colonel Gardiner—in which he said that he was of opinion that Seoraphuli had a claim to a high-level platform, and that he would recommend the same to the Board for sanction. This letter is dated the 22nd April, 1897. Will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken to raise the Seoraphuli platform, the low level of which is a source of serious inconvenience to passengers, specially Hindu ladies; and if no action has been taken, what is the earliest date when action may be expected to be taken?

The Hon'ble Mr. BUCKLEY replied:—

“The reply received from the Agent of the East Indian Railway to the communication addressed to him by this Government shows that the work of raising the platform of the Sheoraphuli station, East Indian Railway, has been started and was stopped for a day or two during the late rush of traffic to Tarkessur, but has again been re-started.”

PLAGUE INSPECTOR OF DACCA.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked—

(a) Will the Government be pleased (1) to give the name of the gentleman who has been appointed Plague Inspector of Dacca by the Magistrate of Dacca; (2) his qualifications, medical, sanitary or engineering, if any; (3) and the pay of the post?

(b) Is it the case that the Magistrate has compelled the Commissioners of Dacca and, despite their protest, to dispense with the services of the Engineer-Secretary, the Chairman being told that he would be held personally responsible for his pay if the Engineer-Secretary was not at once removed? Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence on the subject?

The Hon'ble Mr. RISLEY replied:—

"The Government has no information on the matters referred to in the question except as to the name of the Plague Inspector. He is a Mr. Connan and was employed as Famine Superintendent at Muzaffarpur. The Commissioner of the Dacca Division will be asked to report the facts."

RETIRING BONUS TO MR. BUSKIN, MANAGER OF THE HATWA RAJ.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked—

Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any truth in the announcement made by the *Behar Herald* that Mr. Buskin, the Manager of the Hatwa Raj, who is now about to retire from the management, is to receive "a bonus of Rs. 67,000 for long and meritorious service." If so, will the Government kindly state the nature of the meritorious services, and whether there was anything specially marked in them to call for this munificent recognition?

The Hon'ble Mr. FINUCANE replied:—

"MR. BUSKIN served the late Maharajah of Hatwa for 30 years as Manager, Assistant Manager, and in other capacities. He was the Maharajah's confidential friend and adviser, and highly esteemed by him. It is the custom of the Raj to give pensions to old servants on their retirement, and it is reported that the late Maharajah wished to give Mr. Buskin a liberal pension. The Maharani has since the Maharajah's death pressed on the Court of Wards the propriety of giving Mr. Buskin a pension of Rs. 600, and also of leasing him a Raj Indigo Factory on favourable terms. The Court of Wards agreed to the pension, but refused to lease the factory. Mr. Buskin has been allowed to commute the pension into a lump sum according to the rules of Government service for commutation of pensions. The value of the pension according to the rules is approximately Rs. 67,000.

"The Maharani has expressed her regret and disappointment that a more liberal reward for his services has not been given to Mr. Buskin."

BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1898-99.

The Hon'ble Mr. RISLEY moved for the discussion of the Bengal Financial Statement for 1898-99.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE said:—"It was impossible for the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Financial Department to present what is called a prosperity budget at a season like the present when the country is just emerging from the direful visitation of a great famine and of a great earthquake, with the prospect of the plague looming in the near future. These disasters have left their impress upon the financial situation of the country. The financial situation is always an index to the prosperity, or otherwise of the country. It is an infallible barometer of the national condition. I need only remind the Council of the weighty words of John Bright, one of England's greatest orators and statesmen. He said, "Tell me what the financial condition of a country is, and I will tell you all about the position of the Government and the prospects of the people." Judging by this standard we have no reason to congratulate ourselves on the present occasion, but I do not mean to throw any blame on the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Financial Department. I blame nobody. I cordially acknowledge the fact that the Hon'ble Member has done his best under the adverse circumstances in which he found himself placed, and that he has ably safeguarded our financial interests. The Financial Statement which is before the Council gives

us the actuals for 1896-97, the revised estimates for 1897-98, and the budget estimates for 1898-99. I regard the revised estimates for 1897-98 as the most important of these. The actuals for 1896-97 may be regarded by some as ancient history, and as important only in their bearing on the revised estimates for 1897-98; and the budget estimates for 1898-99 represent merely a forecast which, no doubt, has been prepared with considerable care and forethought, but which may be upset by eventualities which the wisest may not be able to anticipate. It was estimated that the closing balance for 1897-98 would be ten lakhs of rupees; the closing balance, however, was only five lakhs. The orders of the Secretary of State are that the working balance of this Administration should be at least 20 lakhs. That order is a wise and statesmanlike order, and, having regard to the financial position of this province, namely, that we have to deal with an annual revenue and expenditure of five crores, I do not think that a working balance of 20 lakhs is at all too much. That balance has now dwindled down to five lakhs. If you refer to the actuals of 1896-97, you will find that the working balance for that year was about 39 lakhs, and there have been times when the balance was even higher than that. Therefore, we are confronted with a situation in which, under the orders of the Secretary of State, the working balance should be 20 lakhs, which was estimated at ten lakhs but which has now dwindled down to five lakhs. My Hon'ble friend has given an explanation of this in the admirable note which is appended to the Financial Statement. That explanation is complete as far as it goes. It is this;—It was expected that local funds would contribute a sum of eight lakhs towards famine expenditure; the local funds were in a position to contribute only three lakhs towards famine relief; there was, therefore, a deficit of five lakhs, and, under the orders of the Imperial Government, that deficit was made good from the Provincial Fund. I hope I may be permitted to express my regret at that order. The Imperial Government is the custodian of the Famine Insurance Fund. It has made itself responsible in the eyes of the whole civilised world for the protection of human life and the mitigation of human suffering from the calamities of famine, and the responsibility, therefore, for famine relief devolves almost exclusively on the shoulders of the Imperial Government. I hope and trust that the Imperial Government will see its way to recoup us to the extent of the five lakhs of rupees which the Local Government has had to contribute on this account. My hon'ble friend makes a statement in this connection which is extremely innocent in its character. He says:—‘The question as to what contribution can be demanded is under the consideration of superior authorities.’ The demand is a demand upon the local bodies; the local bodies are hard pressed; they have not sufficient funds to meet their own local demands, and I feel this view will be endorsed by my hon'ble friend. They are not in a position to meet the strain which their own requirements put upon them, and to ask them to add to that and to contribute a sum of five lakhs to famine expenditure would involve a serious burden which I am afraid they will not be able to bear. I would ask my hon'ble friend to state the names of the districts which have been called upon to make this contribution, and the amount which they are required respectively to contribute.

“Coming to the side of the receipts, I find that, in 1897-98, there was an improvement to the extent of six lakhs of rupees. We might at the first blush be disposed to congratulate ourselves on the elasticity of our revenues, but, on looking into the matter a little closely, the illusion disappears into thin air. Out of the six lakhs, three lakhs represent collections from water-rates imposed upon raiyats for drawing water from the Sone Canal, and my hon'ble friend, with admirable candour, says that this large increase in the payment of the water-rate is due to the scarcity of water. Practically it comes to this, that you take three lakhs from the pockets of the agriculturist in the payment of water-rate and put the money into the pockets of the general tax-payer. I admit that you are quite within your rights in doing what you have done. The Sone Canal was excavated at the expense of the general tax-payers, and the Government has, therefore, the right of levying a water-rate for the benefit of the general tax-payer. But the community of Bengal is pre-eminently an agricultural community, and the well-being of the people depends upon the

agriculture of the country; therefore the agricultural community should be treated with some consideration, and I submit that this increase in the receipts from water-rate is a matter which does not afford much room for satisfaction. Then, looking at the receipts from stamps, we have an increase of Rs. 1,30,000 under this head. My hon'ble friend says that this increase is due to an increase in the number of mortgages and the number of transfer deeds owing to the prevalence of high prices. However, the darkest cloud has its silver lining, and we find that the excise revenue has fallen off by a sum of three lakhs; but that does not represent a permanent improvement in the habits of the people: it represents their straitened circumstances. It points to the fact that they were not in a position to indulge in the luxury of liquor. Let us hope that those who through scarcity or otherwise abstained from intoxicating liquors for one season may from prudential considerations continue a habit which they found to be economical.

"Then we find on the expenditure side a sum of eight lakhs for famine purposes, and here I desire to congratulate the Government on the signal and pre-eminent success which has attended its efforts in this direction. And, speaking of famine operations and famine relief, it is impossible to refrain from referring to the kindly and practical manifestation of sympathy which the people of India received from the British public in the hour of their sorest need. It is sympathy such as this which is calculated to draw closer together the bonds of amity and good will which unite the two countries. It were much to be wished that the admirable suggestion of the Maharaja of Darbhanga had been adopted—a suggestion which was endorsed by the high authority of Sir Henry Fowler—that a grant should be made from the Imperial Exchequer for famine purposes. On the expenditure side I find also that a sum of 5 lakhs was expended as grain allowance to the menial servants of the Government, and I trust the day is not far distant when this sum will be found in the estimates as a permanent increase to the salaries of the menial and ministerial servants of the Government. They are the most poorly and inadequately paid servants the Government has in its employ. Their salaries were fixed as far back as the year 1865. In 1885 a Commission was appointed, of which Mr. Grimley and Rai Durgagati Banerjea were members, and they recommended an increase of salaries to the extent of 75 per cent. That recommendation has not yet been given effect to, but I hope that, with the advent of returning plenty and prosperity, your Honour will find it possible to do this act of long-deferred justice to this deserving class of public servants. I find that a sum of Rs. 6,23,000 which had been provided in the revised estimates for 1897-98 as a grant from the Government of India in respect of survey and settlement charges has been discontinued. I should like to know the reason why.

"Coming to the budget estimates for 1898-99, we find that an estimated increase of 13 lakhs is expected from the reassessment of the khas mahals. I look with some little apprehension at this increase of revenue, specially in view of the somewhat summary law which this Council passed the other day. I should like to know the entire sum which the Government derives as zamindar from the khas mahals, so that we may be able to judge of the percentage of the increase which is expected. I am quite sure that the Settlement Officers of the Government will deal in a considerate manner with the raiyats. Then I find on the receipt side of the budget estimates for 1898-99 an increase of Rs. 70,000 under the head of Education and 'Schools—General.' I do not know what this means; but I hope it does not involve an increase in the fees to be levied in schools. Then, under the head of Excise, I find an increase of one lakh of rupees. This increase is connected with distilleries, and I should like to know how much of this increase is expected to be derived from outstills, how many outstills we had in 1896-97, how many in 1897-98, and how many are estimated for 1898-99; and what were the proceeds from these stills? We find that for 1898-99 the receipts from ferries show a falling off as compared with 1897-98. Does this mean that a larger sum has been made over from the proceeds of ferries to the local bodies? If so, I congratulate the Government on the result. The general practice is to make over one-half the proceeds of ferries to the local bodies. These receipts represent purely local funds, and it seems to

me that local bodies would be enormously strengthened if the entire receipts could be made over to them. It would be a welcome addition to their straitened resources.

"Coming to the expenditure side, I find that there is an increase under the head of 'Forests,' and the explanation given is that this increase is due to vacancies in the appointments of Extra Assistant Conservators having been filled up. I should like to know how many Extra-Assistant Conservators you have, how many are natives of India, and how many Europeans and Eurasians? It seems to me that this is one of those Departments in which the children of the soil ought to be largely employed. There is one other observation I should like to make in this connection, namely, that there seems to be a very wide scope for the employment of educated natives in the higher appointments in connection with the minor Civil Services. It will be in the recollection of Hon'ble Members that there was a somewhat heated and animated discussion in this country in connection with the resolution of the House of Commons affirming the principle of simultaneous examinations for the Indian Civil Services. If you will look at the Blue Book which has been published, you will find that not a single Government—neither the Supreme Government nor any of the Local Governments—has said a word against the holding of simultaneous examinations in regard to the minor Civil Services. Therefore, as far as the wider employment of the people of the country in the higher appointments in the minor Civil Services is concerned, we are justified in making the inference that there is no objection on the part of the Government, at any rate there is no political reason against such employment. Then we find in the Budget that provision has been made for an Additional Commissioner. I should like to know why. We have been able to do with the present number of Commissioners; why then is another Commissioner wanted? The matter requires explanation. Then I find another item of increase on the expenditure side. It is a small item, but attention should be drawn to it. Under the head of victualling for officers and men afloat an increase has been found necessary. In 1896-97 the actual expenditure under this head was Rs. 18,000; in the revised estimates of 1897-98 it rose to Rs. 20,000, and the budget estimates for 1898-99 provide for Rs. 23,000. The expenditure seems to be increasing year by year; the attention of Government should, therefore, be drawn to this item. Then, with regard to some other Departments—there is a tendency to increase in the charges of superintendence. I desire to call attention to two such departments—the Excise and the Calcutta Customs Department. With regard to these, the Hon'ble Member explains that, as regards the Excise Department, the full establishment has been entertained and hence the increase, but I do not know why there should be any increase in the charge for superintendence in the Customs Department. Then, under the head of Law and Justice, the expenditure in 1898-99 is estimated at 98 lakhs, and the receipts from stamps 130 lakhs. There will, therefore, be a balance of about 30 lakhs. I refer only to the share of these receipts to which we are entitled, and not that which belongs to the Imperial Government; and it appears that we have an enormous balance. I remember that last year Sir Thoby Prinsep said, from his place in Council, that, after all charges had been met in connection with the administration of justice, there was a clear balance of 13 or 14 lakhs. If there is that balance, or a balance of 30 lakhs as estimated for 1898-99, or whatever the balance may be, the first charge on that balance ought to be the strengthening of the judicial establishments. You cannot say that our judicial system is perfect. The Council and the Government must be aware of the infinite delays to which suitors are subjected from the paucity of judicial officers. It is notorious that you have not an adequate number of Munsifs to try petty civil cases, and I desire to know whether it is proposed to add to the number of Munsifs, and, further, whether it is proposed to provide house accommodation for Munsifs. I know and thankfully acknowledge that something has been done in this direction; but much more remains to be done, and, as long as I have the honour to be a Member of this Council, it will be my duty to press this matter upon the attention of the Government.

"Lastly, let me refer to the expenditure under the head of Education, which shows an increase of about one lakh; that is to say, the estimated expenditure

is set down at 28 lakhs as against the revised estimate of 27 lakhs. But, notwithstanding the proposed increase, the charge for education per head of the population in India is about the lowest as compared with similar charges in other parts of Her Majesty's dominions. It has been remarked that the faculties of our countrymen are capable of the greatest possible development under education, and this splendid material is being wasted by inadequate provision being made to promote the education of the people. I should like to know how much of the increase in education charges is due to European education? In the explanatory note it is stated that provision is made for the encouragement of literature.

"I should like to know how much it is proposed to devote to this object. Then there is a considerable increase under the head of Inspection charges due to re-organisation. Here, again, I should like to know how much is due to increased salaries allowed to the native members of the Department and how much to Europeans? I find that there is a reduction in the fund for grants-in-aid and scholarship grants. This is a matter which deserves the careful scrutiny of the Government. I rejoice to find that strenuous efforts are being made to promote the cause of technical education. I am an advocate of high education, none the less I desire to congratulate the Government on its policy in this connection; for the objects of high education and of technical education are not antagonistic. They both minister to the same purpose, namely, the elevation of the people. But, unless you are prepared to open out careers to at least the most distinguished of the young men who avail themselves of technical education, you can hardly expect your philanthropic efforts to be successful. That was the policy of the distinguished men who were concerned in the opening of the Calcutta Medical College. Incentives were offered to induce young men to overcome their prejudices, and the results have been marvellous. It is necessary that this fact should be recognised. Men after all are dominated much more by material than by moral considerations and the practical administrator should not lose sight of this fact. I may mention that Professor J. C. Bose last year, while addressing a meeting of the Society of Arts in London, remarked that students trained in electricity in the Presidency College were fully qualified to fill some of the higher appointments in the Telegraph Department. [The Hon'ble Mr. Risley rising to order said:—"I think this is not relevant."] I am only illustrating my contention that it is useless to open technical schools unless you are in a position to offer suitable careers either independently or with the aid of the Government of India to at least the most distinguished students who are trained in those schools. My contention is that there are no suitable careers open to them, and that, unless there are, your schools will not be the flourishing institutions they ought to be. If these young men find that they have to starve, they will dissuade others from joining these institutions; and, on behalf of these young men I venture to make an earnest appeal to the Government to furnish them with suitable prospects, and I have not the slightest doubt that my appeal will not be made in vain."

The Hon'ble BABU NORENDRO NATH SEN said:—"There is very little to criticise in the Budget of figures presented to us, especially as the appropriations from Provincial income to Provincial and Imperial expenditure seem to have been made under the mandates of the Government of India. The Provincial Statement, Sir, is simplicity, itself as compared with the Imperial Statement, published last month. It does not contain much matter of a controversial character. There is one point, however, which is referred to in the present statement in more places than one, which, it is to be hoped, will receive the attention of the Government as bearing on the economic condition of the masses. In referring to the increased income from stamps and registration, the increase seems to be regarded as a satisfactory feature in the operations of the year, but seeing that the increase is reported, and correctly reported, as due to the large number of bonds, mortgages and deeds of sale registered owing to the prevailing scarcity, it is more than doubtful whether there is any reasonable ground for satisfaction or congratulation in any such contingency. The Bengal Government has lately published a comparison between the famine administration as it was in 1874-75 and as it has been in 1897-98, and, alluding to the money costs of the two periods, gave us to understand that the cost *then* was double of what it has been

now. Doubtless, the development of railways and irrigation accounts for a great part of this decrease on the present occasion, but the true test will be found in the staying power of the masses, as manifested in the stamps and registration income. Will the Government be good enough to satisfy the desire of the public for this knowledge?

"There is one other point which requires elucidation in the present accounts. In the expenditure table, the Forest and Registration Departments are said to cost $8\frac{1}{2}$ and $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs against incomes of $6\frac{7}{8}$ and $7\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs respectively. The assessed taxes were put down as costing only Rs. 91,000 against an income of over $24\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. Again, Provincial rates are a source of revenue to the extent of over $44\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, whereas the machinery employed for the collection of these rates is alleged to cost 74 lakhs. Doubtless, there must be some satisfactory explanation of these anomalies forthcoming; but it would be more satisfactory if the accounts were presented in a form which may be understood by the general public.

"As the Provincial Statement may be said to form in manner only a part of the Imperial Budget, the recent debate on that Budget covered most of the ground, as far as Bengal is concerned, which it was the tion and purport of some of us to traverse. One of our greatest grievances. Sir, will allow me to say so, is in connection with the working of the sub Civil Courts. The subordinate judicial service, it is notorious, is insufficiently manned, its members are acknowledgedly under-paid, and very badly housed. The ministerial officers in Bengal are also inadequately paid, and if irregularities, and even much worse things, result as a consequence, they follow as a matter of course. This subject, however, has been most ably and exhaustively dealt with by Sir Thoby Prinsep from his place in the Imperial Council, and he has scarcely left us room for criticism. But even if he had left room for further comment, this would hardly have been the time to press the matter, considering how the resources of the Government of Bengal have lately been put to the severest test by the extraordinary charges it has had to meet on account of the plague-scare, the famine, and the terrible earthquake of June last. I can only, therefore, express a hope that the Government will bear in mind the grievances of the members of the subordinate judicial service, and of the ministerial officers in Bengal—grievances which have been so often urged on its attention—and will take the earliest opportunity to apply the necessary remedy.

"Having regard to the special circumstances to which I have referred, the Bengal Financial Statement, so far as it goes, must be accepted as satisfactory. But we must look to our past experience. Any forecast which we may now make may belie us hereafter. Calamities, equal to those which we have just passed through, or of much greater magnitude, may overtake us at any moment, and upset our most hopeful calculations. We must, therefore, be very cautious, and not too sure or confident about the future. I have no desire to be a prophet of evil, but it is ever best to keep a large margin for probable and even possible evils or misfortunes.

"With your permission, Sir, I will now direct the attention of the Government to at least one subject of the gravest importance to the teeming millions of Bengal. It is said that the Government should make some provision for meeting the scarcity of drinking-water, especially in this hot season. It may be said on behalf of the Government, that the making of such provision lies well within the province of municipalities, zamindars and the Road-cess Department. This would be special pleading, and a beneficent Government should not shelter itself under such a plea. The Government ought not for a day longer to neglect this matter of supplying drinking-water to the people of the interior in these Provinces. We do not feel the want in Calcutta. Well-to-do municipalities in the mofassil may be able to raise large loans for water-works, but there are numerous places in Bengal which have not such financial resources. I do not mean it in any way as a reflection on the great British Government, but I may mention that in ancient times, it was the first duty of Hindu kings to supply wholesome drinking-water to his subjects, and this he had to do in discharge of a strict religious injunction. Water is the very life of the people. Would it, therefore, be too much for me to request the Government to set apart a sum for the purpose of supplying drinking-water to the people? I would go further,

and ask the Government to hold out special inducements to zamindars and other well-to-do people to sink wells, dig tanks and re-excavate old tanks. If this be done, we shall be able to contribute much to the health of Bengal, and to keep out cholera and other epidemic diseases."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE said:—"It is to be regretted, Sir, that in the Budget Statement an improvement in our agricultural prospects should have to be associated with an increase of the excise revenue. It has always appeared to me to be the duty of the Government to extricate the Hon'ble Member in charge of the finances from the awkward position of having to congratulate himself whenever in view of an improvement in the agricultural prospects, he can count upon an increase of the Excise Revenue, and of congratulating himself so far as to be unusually liberal in his appropriations to the Excise Department. As has been already pointed out, the full sanctioned scale of officers and establishment has this year been provided for under all the heads. Then, coming to the head of Education, it is a gratifying fact that provision has been made for increased expenditure the encouragement of literature and for the establishment of a new boarding school for girls. It is striking, however, that while there is to be an increase of expenditure under this head, the increase is not likely to give satisfaction. The test of a healthy increase of expenditure is that it results in giving satisfaction to those concerned. If we take, for example, the increased expenditure in connection with the reorganisation of the Educational Service, it is very striking that while the reorganisation of the Educational Service has led to an increase of expenditure, the new scheme has not satisfied the parties concerned. That there should be an increase of expenditure, and yet those immediately concerned should not be satisfied, seems to me to be anomalous. Then, again, the amount appropriated for grants-in-aid has been cut down; so that those educational institutions which have to depend on grants-in-aid from the Government, will have their grants from the Government reduced. They, therefore, cannot be satisfied. If the test to which I have referred is at all a proper test, increase of expenditure should secure the satisfaction of those who are affected by such increased expenditure; but we have here the phenomenon of an increase of expenditure without the satisfaction which ought normally to result from increase of expenditure. There is one other point under the head of Education to which I wish to refer, namely, that the increase of expenditure is attributed partly to the examination charges in connection with schools under the charge of European Inspectors. I do not know the details of those charges, but certainly a considerable proportion of those charges must be due to the fact that in connection with European schools, an examination has been started which is separate from the Matriculation examination of the University. Time was when there was only one examination for Bengali and for European schools. Whether this increase of expenditure on account of examination charges is chiefly due to there being a separate examination for European schools I do not know; but I think it is a matter for consideration whether there should be a separate examination for European schools."

The Hon'ble MR. BUCKLEY said:—"The Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee has referred to the increase of three lakhs in the Irrigation revenue, and he said that it does not afford much room for satisfaction. I am quite sure that, if he was aware of all the circumstances connected with that increase of revenue, he would see reason to change his opinion. It is true we cannot show in these provinces financial results from irrigation works equal to those in the North-Western Provinces or in the Punjab. Our irrigation works are a considerable drain, in one sense, on the Provincial revenues, but, in another sense, I think the expenditure upon them is most fully justified. I speak from personal experience of the Sone Canal, which did its work in the past famine in a way which was, perhaps, hardly appreciated by the Government, although I am quite sure it was most thoroughly appreciated by the people. I understood the Hon'ble Member to say that these three lakhs were extracted from the pockets of those who paid the water-rates for the benefit of

the general tax-payer. It is true that the rate-payers paid increased rents in 1896; but they paid them most readily, the actual collections were 99·6 per cent. of the current demand of the year. They were in fact very well off and they were happy. In 1873, during the last famine which occurred in these provinces, it was the policy of the Government to import large quantities of grain for the benefit of the people of Bihar. That policy has now been departed from. In 1873 160 lakhs of maunds of rice were carried into Bihar, a quantity which was far in excess of what was required. The Sone Canal in 1896-97 actually put into the hands of the people at least 45 or 50 lakhs of maunds of clean rice (not paddy) available for the use of the famine-stricken people of Bihar; that is to say there were 50 lakhs of maund of rice in the district which would not have existed had not the canal been there. Something approaching to one-third of the total quantity of grain which Sir Richard Temple with great labour imported in 1873. This is a point of some importance. Though the revenue which is obtained from the canal is not large, it is steadily though slowly increasing. The most important point, however, is that the people now thoroughly appreciate the benefits of the canal and ask for more water than can be given to them, and leases are now actually being refused. There is a small irrigation work constructed by a native gentleman in Champaran. It was my duty to ride about that district during the late famine, and I saw miles of rice crops where you would hardly gather a handful of rice from an acre. But under the protection of that little irrigation work the value of the rice crop which was saved by it was fully equal to the entire capital cost of that canal, if not more. It would have paid the people living near that canal to have constructed that work for that one season alone. The same is true to a considerable extent with regard to our large irrigation works. The rains failed to some extent in 1895, and again in 1896, and the crop saved in those two years by the action of the Sone Canal was estimated to be equal to about two-thirds the total cost of those works. In the famine year 1896, when all the irrigated fields were rich in grain, the people sold their crops to enormous advantage, two or three times over the value, in ordinary years, and they were rolling in wealth; they are happy and contented and paid their rates cheerfully."

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE said:—"I will reply, as far as I can, to the questions which have been put in connection with the Departments with which I am associated; but, before I do so, I hope I may be permitted to congratulate the Council on the moderation of the Hon'ble Members who have criticised the budget. These discussions directly led to nothing in particular, but they may indirectly result in considerable benefit in the way of enabling the Financial Member to justify the expenditure which has been incurred or which it is proposed to incur, and also in eliciting information which may clear away misunderstandings. But if that is the object of this discussion, and if that object is to be attained, then it is at least desirable that Hon'ble Members should give notice to the Member of the Government in charge of the Department to which the questions appertain as to the points on which they desire information. There is scarcely a single subject of expenditure upon which some question has not been asked. For my part I have had no notice of the questions which have been referred to in respect of my Departments, and it is impossible to carry in one's head all the details which have been referred to and give the information wanted. (The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE:—"I gave notice to the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary.") I must, however, endeavour to answer as well as I can.

"With regard to the contributions of local bodies towards famine expenditure, there is some misunderstanding. The position is this: District Boards and Road-cess Committees have in ordinary years to spend some of their money upon the improvement of roads, tanks, &c.; when famine came these bodies were asked whether, instead of employing the District Engineers and their other establishments on these works and working by contractors, they would be willing to place their establishments at the disposal of the Government and to contribute to the Government for expenditure on roads, tanks, &c. the money they would have themselves have spent on these objects.

They agreed to do so. They agreed to contribute of their own free will, and the total amount that was thus agreed upon to be contributed was, I think, eight lakhs. It afterwards turned out that the famine had not made its appearance in certain districts in which it was at first thought famine would have been felt. Those districts were not asked to make good the estimated contributions, and the result is that only the districts in which famine was declared were ultimately asked to contribute, and the total amount to be paid thus became very much less than what was originally estimated. But even of that total amount the whole has not yet been paid, and the question now under consideration is whether the famine districts are able to pay the sums they promised. It has been said the responsibility for relieving famine is on the Government, and that they ought not to ask the District Boards to share the burden of it. The Government has not done so; they have simply asked for the funds which the District Boards would otherwise have themselves spent, and these funds have been spent on repairs and construction of roads just as they would have to be spent by the Boards themselves. I have been asked to name the districts from which these contributions have been promised; I cannot name them now one by one; they are simply the districts which were declared to be famine districts. From other districts nothing has been taken. Not only have the District Boards not been asked to share the burden of relieving distress, but on the contrary Government has carried out from Imperial and Provincial Funds—as famine works—numerous works which would in the course of time have to be executed by the District Boards, and in doing so has largely added to the supply of good drinking water to which reference has been made.

“Then my hon’ble friend has asked how much revenue the Government derives from the *khas mahals*. I cannot answer that straight off. The information is given in the published annual report of the Board of Revenue. I can only say that the increase of revenue which the Government has obtained from the *khas mahals* and from the resettlement of revenue in Orissa and elsewhere is so moderate that, as was pointed out the other day by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the new rents have been settled and realised all over Bengal without any friction or difficulty, with an infinitesimally small number of appeals, and with the consent of all concerned. The number of tenants whose rents have been settled since the passing of the Tenancy Act has been at least double the total number of agricultural tenures in England, Scotland and Ireland put together. Yet no complaint was heard; everything went on smoothly, and that is a sufficient guarantee that the Government has been and is being moderate in its demands.

“Then as to the Education Department, it has been asked how much of the increased cost of the Education Department is due to the increase of pay of the different branches of the Education Service, and the question has been asked why is that the reorganisation scheme has not given satisfaction. The increased cost of the reorganisation of the three branches of the service is about Rs. 14,000 a month. The superior branch of the service, manned mainly by Europeans has had its cost reduced by about Rs. 10,000 a month, by some of the senior men of the Education Department retiring and their places not having been filled up by Europeans; and the whole of that saving and more has been devoted to the improvement of the prospects of the Provincial and Subordinate Education Department; so that the whole of the saving effected by reduction of the staff of the Superior or Imperial branch of the service has been devoted to the benefit of the men in the Provincial and Subordinate branches of the service which are manned chiefly by natives of India. Then it is said why has there not been satisfaction? The only answer I can give is that the gentlemen who are dissatisfied would like to have all the money that is being spent upon the Provincial and Subordinate Services given to them, and, in addition to that, they would like to have all the good things in the superior branch of the service too. But both the Government of India and the Secretary of State have held that it is necessary to have a certain number of Europeans in the higher branch of the service, and hence the dissatisfaction. Then my hon’ble friend has spoken of technical education. Part of the expenditure under this head

is due to the opening of the Sibpur agricultural classes and of the Bengal Veterinary School. And my friend says that unless the Government provides employment for those who have been trained in these classes, the money spent on these technical schools will be wasted. The Government has done all that it can in providing such employment. It has reserved appointments in the Subordinate Executive Service for the licentiates of the Agricultural School, and held out hopes of other suitable employment for them, and it gives preference to candidates from these schools. At the same time I am surprised to hear such a statement as that made by the Hon'ble Member. Are we to be told that in the matter of agriculture the people of this country will not enter schools provided specially for training in agriculture unless they are promised certain employment by Government, that zamindars and their sons have no interest in improving the agriculture of the country unless they are provided with Government appointments? [The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE—"I said the most distinguished of the students."] Similarly in the case of veterinary schools. If there is anything in which the people of the country should take interest, it is in matters of this kind, in the well-being and improvement of cattle and in agricultural improvement; and if we are to be told that nobody will take an interest in these schools unless those who enter them are provided with employment, then I can only say that I hope the Hon'ble Member is mistaken and that it will not be so.

"Then with reference to the Forest Department, a question has been asked as to the cause of the additional expenditure under this head. I may remind my friend that the necessity for this expenditure was recognised some years ago, and my impression is that half of it is due to the improvement of the superior and the other half to the inferior branches of the service. During the last three or four days a letter has been before me, in which it is stated that an increase of Rs. 8,000 has been given to the inferior branch of the service.

"A question has also been asked as to the increase of fees in schools. The answer is that there has been no increase in schools in general, but only in the European schools in Darjeeling. They are schools which have been found necessary for the children of the poorer classes of Government employes who should have some facilities given them for the education of their children. It has been asked why the grants-in-aid have been reduced. The answer is that there has been no reduction. The grants-in-aid amount to six lakhs, the same as last year. The Hon'ble Babu Norendra Nath Sen has referred to the increase under the head of stamps. It is no doubt to be regretted that the people have during the late famine been obliged to mortgage their property to a greater extent than in ordinary years; but that was unavoidable unless the Government were to administer famine relief on a recklessly lavish scale and were to pay no attention to the interests of the tax-payers. It is a matter for some congratulation that the security of tenant-rights in Bengal has been so good that the tenants have been able to borrow the money they needed. The Hon'ble Member has also asked for information as to the staying power of the people. He will find all the information we have on the subject in the Final Resolution on the Famine dated 11th March which was published in the Gazette.

"I beg in conclusion to thank the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee for the generous manner in which he has referred to the famine administration of the Province."

The Hon'ble MR. RISLEY said:—"This debate may be described as a debate *de omnibus rebus et quibusdam aliis*. It covers the entire range of our administration, and considering the multifarious character of the administration, it is almost beyond the bounds of possibility that any one man can carry in his head all the details which will enable him at once to say of what charges any particular sum is made up; and it frequently happens that questions are put in such a manner that they cannot be precisely answered owing to the form of the accounts. There has been a slight change in the practice of the Council in this respect. Formerly the debate on the Budget was preceded by what I may call an army of skirmishers in the shape of questions, and that is a practice which now prevails in the Bombay Council. Some forty or fifty questions are asked and answered before the debate begins. But as

regards the Bengal Council, Sir Alexander Mackenzie ruled in connection with the budget debate, that it was not sound practice to ask formal questions by way of interpellation relating to the budget, and he said it was desirable that Members who wish to refer to particular points should communicate beforehand with the Secretary in charge of the Department to which the matter belongs and obtain from him any detailed information he desires, and so enable the Secretary to inform himself as to those details before the debate commences. On the present occasion I have to thank my hon'ble friend Babu Surendranath Banerjee, who is well acquainted with the practice of this Council, for having given me notice of the points he proposed to raise, and thereby placed me in a position to reply to such of them as have not already been replied to by my hon'ble friend Mr. Finucane. As to the budget itself, there is exceedingly little to be said. It is a calamity budget and bears the marks of famine, earthquake and cyclone on its face. It has been made a matter of comment that the opening balance is Rs. 5,39,000 and the closing balance is also Rs. 5,39,000. In ordinary years by a standing order of the Secretary of State, we are required to reserve out of the surplus a sum of 20 lakhs to meet unforeseen emergencies during the year. Ordinarily, therefore, the opening balance in fortunate years is made up of this irreducible minimum of 20 lakhs plus certain other sums. In 1896-97 the balance was Rs. 58,20,000 and the closing balance Rs. 41,07,000, and the difference between these sums was appropriated for the improvement of the administration. Now the balance being less than half the minimum which is ordinarily reserved, that balance cannot be reduced further; and therefore the opening and closing balance stand at the same figure.

"It is exceedingly difficult to deal with the various points which are raised in a debate of this kind in a connected fashion, and one can only notice them as they present themselves in as regular a form as is possible. My hon'ble friend Babu Surendranath Banerjee referred to the demand which has been made on District Boards in connection with the famine, and a very full reply was given to him by my hon'ble friend Mr. Finucane, which I can only amplify by giving the details. I have a statement before me which shows in what district famine was declared, and gives for a number of districts the amounts which were expended on famine relief by District Boards on their own account and the amounts contributed by them towards the Provincial expenditure on account of famine. I think it unnecessary to take up the time of the Council in reading out the details of that statement, but I can readily give my hon'ble friend a copy of it. [The Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee:—"I hope it will be published in the proceedings."] As regards Irrigation, I should like to add my testimony to that of my hon'ble friend Mr. Buckley, as to the anxiety of the raiyats to get canal water. I was in Midnapore in 1874. The high-level canal had then not been constructed very long, and it was found that the raiyats had not come forward very readily to take water. The rainfall of ordinary years made them independent of the canal, and they used to wait until the last moment and would not come forward to take leases for a term of years. But in 1874 the demand for water became tremendous, and then they completely realised what a superb resource they had in the canal against the scarcity of water, but unfortunately as the canal was not fed from sources which are perennial, there was not so much water as the raiyats would have liked to take. Closely connected with this question is the question of grain compensation allowance. It was given in the famine districts, and is being given even now in one or two districts which have not reverted to their normal level. Then my hon'ble friend made an appeal to the Government on behalf of the ministerial and menial servants of the Government. I may say that as regards menial servants, provision has been made to raise to Rs. 6 a month the pay of those who now get between Rs. 5 and Rs. 6, and to raise by one rupee the pay of those who get less than that sum. This has been sanctioned by the Government of India and the Secretary of State, and is being brought into effect as grain compensation is withdrawn. The question of the salaries of the ministerial officers of the Government has been discussed in this Council before. It was discussed at some length in the debate which took place on the 11th April, 1896. I then referred to the Report of the Salaries Commission. They stated that the

rise of prices which had occurred between the time (1861) at which the salaries of the ministerial officers were fixed, and the time when the Salaries Commission reported (1884-85) amounted to about 75 per cent. But that is not correct. They added together a number of increases in the percentage. They said rice had gone up 65 per cent., vegetable 83 per cent. and condiments 113 per cent. I asked them what proportion of a man's income did he spend in condiments, and any one can see the enormous increase in the percentage of condiments brought up the scale. Moreover, the Salaries Commission entirely left out of account certain articles of consumption, the prices of which had fallen. They left out, for instance, piece-goods. Clothes make up a large proportion of a man's ordinary expenditure, and taking grey shirtings as a test, the price of piece-goods had fallen 30 per cent. And so with regard to salt, the price of which had fallen 35 per cent. Therefore as regards the Report of that Commission, nothing is clearer than that, as far as percentages went, it was wholly fallacious, and it no more gives one a real idea of prices than Falstaff's tavern bill with its intolerable deal of sack does of the diet of an average Englishman of his day. And quite apart from this we must put aside the whole argument of the Salaries Commission which is based on the rise in the standard of living. But there has been since that time a certain net rise in prices, and the question was very carefully gone into about three years ago under Sir Charles Elliott's orders. I prepared a table of index numbers based on what was done by economists in Europe, and it was subjected to test by high statistical authorities such as Mr. Stephen Jacob and Mr. O'Connor, Director-General of Statistics; and they came to the conclusion that the table, which had been prepared, gave a very fair approximation of the truth, namely, that there has been a rise in prices to the extent of from 13 to 16 per cent., and I said in Council then, and I say so still, that it would be on the whole fair that the salaries of the ministerial officers of the Government should be raised by 12½ per cent. or two annas in the rupee. That would cause an increased expenditure of Rs. 3,68,000 or, say in round numbers 4 lakhs; whereas the proposal of the Salaries Commission, apart from its being founded on altogether fallacious grounds, would cost no less than a sum of 24 lakhs. This proposal to raise the salaries of the ministerial officers of the Government was strongly pressed on the Government of India in connection with the last settlement of the Provincial contracts. We applied for permission to raise their salaries out of the surplus in that proportion, and asked that it might be recognised as a permanent and reasonable charge on the finances of the Province. The Government of India, however, were unable to allow that deduction to be made from the general revenues of India. It is, however, only fair that I should mention that there is something to be said on the other side. In the first place the charge is a very large one, and it would not affect Bengal only; for if you raise the salaries of the ministerial officers here on the basis of the rise in prices, the ministerial officers in other Provinces would under similar circumstances have a claim on the general purse, and in regarding this proposal with a critical mind, one can hardly fail to observe that the number of men desirous of serving in these appointments is continually increasing. It is an unfortunate consequence of the present system of education that the supply of qualified candidates increases more rapidly than the demand.

"Then my hon'ble friend referred to the reduction in the allotment for surveys and settlements of Rs. 6,23,000, and this is a point which the Hon'ble Mr. Finucane did not mention. The principle on which this allotment is arranged is that two lakhs a year are taken throughout the term of the Contract, but it was recognised that in the first year of the contract, a very large programme would have to be gone through. Consequently a special allotment of Rs. 6,23,000 was made in the first year, and the allotment for that year, therefore, is Rs. 8,23,000. It has now been reduced by natural causes to two lakhs.

"My hon'ble friend also mentioned the increase of the distillery receipts and the number of outstills. As to that, I should explain that under the head of 'distillery receipts' an increase was anticipated on the actuals of 1896-97. The receipts in 1897-98 were abnormally low owing to the prevailing scarcity. As to the number of outstills, I do not think it will be convenient, and it would

certainly be quite contrary to all budget procedure, to enter into details of that kind in the Financial Statement; but the full details are given in the Excise Reports which are published and accessible to everybody. In 1896-97 there were 2,097 outstills, and they represent a net reduction of eight from the number in the previous year. I say a net reduction, although the number is apparently larger, because the increase is due to the fact that several branch shops, which were before included as annexes to the principal outstills are now given as separate outstills. The revenue from these outstills is Rs. 32,32,000. I should further explain that the revised estimate of 1897-98 and the budget estimate of 1898-99 are based simply on the previous actuals. They bear no relation to the number of outstills. It would be impossible otherwise to calculate the amount of revenue which may be expected. The actuals of the past year are taken, and that is the best basis which can be taken as an estimate.

"Then my hon'ble friend referred to the question of Ferries. I am not in a position to say now how the proceeds of each particular ferry are dealt with. The income from ferries is Provincial revenue, and in connection with certain proposals put forward early last year for introducing a scheme of permissive local taxation, the Government of India declined to allow any permanent alienation of the income from ferries. They said it was Provincial revenue and formed part of the general revenues of India and might not be permanently transferred. In point of fact what happens is that a certain number of ferries are made over to local bodies to meet particular charges. For instance, the important and profitable ferries in the neighbourhood of Patna are made over to that Municipality, and they form a considerable portion of their income, yielding something like Rs. 25,000 a year. But in many places the outturn of income from ferries is declining owing to the development of railway communications. A railway comes to a big river, and it institutes its own ferry, with the result that the income from local ferries is declining. And there can be no question that a Railway Company does the work of a ferry on the whole better than it can be done by any local contractor you are likely to find.

"Under the head of Forests my hon'ble friend asks for particulars of establishments. I have the particulars here collated under the heads of Imperial and Provincial services, but I do not know that any particular object will be gained by reading out the lists, as it consists of a mass of figures which requires to be studied somewhat carefully.

"Then as to the question of the victualling of officers and men afloat under the Marine Budget. The budget contains full provision for messing allowances for officers of the Pilot Service of different grades while on duty in the Pilot brigs. The money is given to the Branch Pilot in charge of the brig to enable him to make provision for feeding the Pilots on duty. This money was not drawn in 1896-97 owing to some technical reason, and it therefore did not appear in the accounts for that year, and that explains the apparent increase in the estimates this year.

"The increase under the head of Customs, merely means that by the end of the present year they will work up to the full strength of the sanctioned establishment. When the Tariff Act was passed in 1874, it became necessary to make a large increase in the Customs establishment. The provisions of the Act caused an enormous increase of work which was further added to by the introduction of the cotton duties. Sanction was therefore given to new appointments being made as they were required, and the Customs Department has been gradually working up to the sanctioned establishment.

"Then several speakers referred to the question of Judicial Establishments, and it was suggested that the number of Munsifs now existing is inadequate. The figures are the following during the last three years. In 1895-96 there were under the head of Subordinate Judges 51, in 1896-97 the number was 53, and in 1897-98, 73. Of Munsifs there were in 1895-96 293, in 1896-97 294, and in 1897-98 294. In the first of these years the number includes ten deputed to Assam, in the second year eight, and in the third year 11. The Government of India are being asked to sanction the retention for a period of six months of the Subordinate Judge of Burdwan, and an additional Subordinate Judge for Tippera: also for the retention of the additional Subordinate Judge of

Faridpur, Birbhum and Saran, who is an itinerant officer who goes from place to place to dispose of the cases there. Reference has also been made to the weakness of the judicial establishment in connection with the duration of suits. There are some curious facts which have come before me which seem to indicate that as much work is not always got through by subordinate judicial officers as might be the case. I mention them as I have been myself both a Munsif and a Subordinate Judge, and have seen a good deal of civil suit work in former times. There was a famous case in Bhagalpur which lasted six months and in which it took 50 days to examine 92 witnesses. And there was another case at Faridpur which attracted the notice of the Chief Justice who said:— 'The arguments for the plaintiff and the reply lasted for 24 days, a somewhat remarkable exhibition of forensic rhetoric. One witness was examined for 28 days; 11 or 12 adjournments were given. This is an exceedingly improper proceeding, because it breaks the thread of the case and makes it difficult to resume it,' and he goes on to remark and that is my experience also, 'that these delays are not due, in the great majority of the cases, to any fault on the part of the officers concerned. The Chief Justice said that in this case the Subordinate Judge was not in fault. He got no assistance from the Bar, and if he attempted to control the proceedings, he complained that the Vakils became 'oppressive towards him.' In the Mufassal the Vakils who practise in the Courts have neither the training nor the experience of those in the High Court, and are neither so competent to frame issues nor are they so amenable to suggestions from the Bench.

"My hon'ble friend, Babu Surendranath Banerjee, referred also to the expenditure upon education as compared with other countries, and said that the expenditure on Education is much less here than in other countries. But the real point is that if the expenditure on education in this country is very much lower than in other countries, so also is the taxation, and if it were open to us to raise taxation to the standard of other countries, there would be no difficulty in raising the expenditure on education to the same level.

"Then my hon'ble friend Babu Norendra Nath Sen referred to some point connected with the Forest and Income-tax Department's which I failed to catch completely. But I may say at once that it is entirely fruitless to compare the receipts under one particular head with the expenditure under that head. The various departments of the Government are not commercial institutions in which the receipts and the expenditure must balance. What you do expect to balance is the total receipts and the total expenditure under all heads, and it is mere waste of time to discuss any question as to the separate accounts under a particular head. The point which my hon'ble friend does not realise is that there are divided heads, half being provincial and half Imperial; and if he looks at it in that light, then the matter clears itself up. My hon'ble friend went on to the question of providing drinking-water for the people. Everybody in Bengal is aware that Sir Alexander Mackenzie took an enormous amount of personal trouble to do everything which was possible to improve the supply of drinking-water. We have nearly completed a series of registers showing for every district in Bengal and for every village of more than a hundred people what means of water-supply, such as tanks and wells, there are, and their condition is being reported upon, and the idea of these registers is to place on record the state of things as they are, in order that the local bodies concerned, whose duty it is to improve the water-supply of the localities under their charge, may know what they have to do, and may be able when they have the means to carry out the necessary measures without unnecessary delay. But to recognise it as a Provincial duty to provide a better supply of drinking-water all over Bengal is absolutely out of the question. At the same time I admit that the resources at the command of District Boards at any rate are at present insufficient to enable them to deal with the matter at all thoroughly. My hon'ble friend was pleased to say that this was recognised as one of the obligations of Hindu kings, but I may remind him that there can be no comparison whatever between the Hindu kings of old and the Government of the present day, and may add, what he omitted to mention, that this is one of the first obligations of a zamindar on religious grounds independently of any question of taxation.

"Then the Hon'ble Babu Kali Charan Banerjee mentioned the Excise Revenue, and he seemed to think that it is a very dreadful thing that we get any excise revenue at all. I do not think that it is very likely to come within the range of practical politics, that there should be in any part of India a Maine liquor law. When that distinguished Radical politician, the Hon'ble Mr. James Bryce, came over to this country and went to Darjeeling, I was asked to show him curious forms of worship and curious customs. I took him to the top of Observatory Hill, where three different sects were offering sacrifices to the god Kinchinjunga, and shewed him that in two out of the three cases the offering consisted of strong drinks. With that fact before us, I told Mr. Bryce that it would be a very serious interference with the religious customs of a great many tribes in different parts of India to interfere with the supply of spirituous liquors. This being so, the best thing you can do is what we are endeavouring to do, and that is to get as much revenue as it is possible to get out of the excise and at the same time to reduce the consumption to a minimum. We have accordingly extended enormously the central distillery system and have greatly reduced the outstill system. And as to establishments, we have now worked up to the full sanctioned establishment; but if you compare the establishment in Bengal to that which is employed in other Provinces, you will find that the establishment here is ridiculously inadequate, and if any change of policy is introduced in the Excise Department, it will rather be to assimilate our system to that which prevails in Madras and Bombay, and with such a change it will be inevitable that there should be a very large addition to the establishment. There is a very great deal of illicit distillation going on throughout the country, and it may possibly be necessary to raise the Detective establishment, but there can be no doubt that any change which may be made will pay its way.

"I have endeavoured, as far as I can, to meet all the points which have been raised by Hon'ble Members."

The Hon'ble the PRESIDENT said:—"I understand that it is customary for the President to wind up the annual discussion of the Financial Budget. But I am quite sure that my colleagues in this Council to-day will not expect many remarks on the matter from a President who has been in office for only a week. I should like, however, to say that it is a matter of sorrow to me to find that the finances of Bengal are not in a more prosperous condition. I cannot say that it is a matter to me of disappointment, for it is inevitable after a period of severe famine, a great earthquake, and precautions against pestilence, that the Province should be in straitened circumstances. But I hope we are now at the beginning of a more favourable series of seasons, and that as the year goes on, we shall find ourselves approaching another budget with lightened responsibilities and with increased hopes of financial receipts. Speaking of famine, I should like to speak here as the representative till a very few days ago of the Government of India, and to mention my admiration of the courage and care and economy with which the famine of Bengal was fought. It was not so fought in Bengal alone, but throughout India. I do believe that the famine generally was administered with more economy and more efficiency than any previous famine of the century. It ought to have been so, because we had before us the results of experience carefully tabulated, carefully summarised, and carefully arranged for the conduct of succeeding administrators. I congratulate the Province on its being free from famine now, and I congratulate ourselves on having more hopeful and more pleasant prospects before us. I listened with the greatest interest to the criticisms of the non-official members of this Council, and I hasten to acknowledge the moderation and courtesy with which all these criticisms were advanced. If I have one remark to make about them, it would be to say that I regret the absence from them of any suggestions of greater economy in the administration of the Province. The projects for the expenditure of money which are placed before the Government by non-official bodies and by officials are countless, and the difficulty is to eliminate from them those projects which are of the most pressing urgency as those to which we are limited by the conditions of finance. And I shall hope that next year we may receive from the non-official members of this Council those suggestions

as to greater economy in administration which we may reasonably hope to receive from them. That is a direction in which criticism is of the very greatest value, because it is a form of criticism which I am justified in saying from my experience with the Government of India and of Local Governments is extremely rare.

"Looking down the list of projects of expenditure in the Province of Bengal this year, which I have been particularly pleased to see, I was sorry to hear no mention whatever about them in the course of the discussion. For example, I place great weight upon the projects for the improvement of the appliances of the Medical College. I believe this to be of the first importance for the improvement of the instruction which our young students get there. Next to that I shall put the charges for the improvement of the Campbell Hospital, the hospital for the poor in Calcutta. I visited that hospital last year, and it was a matter of much satisfaction to me to find that a very considerable sum has been allotted in this budget for the improvement of that hospital. Then I hoped that we should have had some acknowledgment from the hon'ble non-official members who have spoken as regards the contribution that has been made for the support of the Eden Hostel. It is a project of the very deepest importance for the welfare of young students who come to Calcutta, for their preservation and protection from the immoral influences which must beset them in a great city like this. There is one other matter in which I take great personal interest, and to which a good deal of reference has been made in the course of the discussion, and that is the allotment made for the improvement of technical education. Last year I visited the College at Sibpur, and came away greatly impressed. There is no institution of the kind which I have seen in any other part of India which approaches the Sibpur Engineering College, and I am sure that if any Hon'ble Member who spoke about it had personally visited, Sibpur College, he would have been gratified to know that every student who passed out of it receives immediate employment of some kind or other. I had something to do in the Central Provinces with agricultural classes in one way or another, and although no special efforts were made by the administration there to further the interests of the students, there was never any difficulty in the students getting employment. With reference to the question of the Subordinate Forest Service, I shall be much obliged to the Hon'ble Member who spoke of them if he would interest himself in getting a class of suitable native candidates for that service. It was tried in the Central Provinces, a large part of the area of which consist of forests and jungle, and I exhausted attempts to induce native gentlemen to enter service in the Forest Department. They did not meet with success, the reason being that the pay was not very attractive, and that the climate is extremely bad. My efforts failed there, but if hon'ble gentlemen who belong to this country can induce the natives of Bengal to enter classes for the study of forestry, I shall give them the most hearty encouragement myself. The Hon'ble Mr. Risley has taken out of my mouth remarks which I intended to make in reference to the water-supply of Bengal. He has told you that it was the earnest desire of Sir Alexander Mackenzie to give every possible aid towards the improvement of the supply of pure water in the villages of the country. A scheme has been so far formulated that it has received the warm approval of the Government of India, and will be carried still further forward in a very short time. It is essential that measures of that kind should be undertaken in a systematic and methodical way. A scheme has been prepared, and I hope to be able before another twelve months are over to make some effort in that direction."

SALT BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. GRIMLEY moved for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Salt Law in Bengal. He said:—"Having regard to the fact that a large amount of the time of the Council has been occupied in carrying on the discussion on the Financial Statement, I do not propose to explain at any length to-day the reasons which make this measure necessary. I shall, therefore, confine myself to a brief statement of the chief objects of the Bill. First, it is proposed to do away with the restrictions of the Rawana system, which must

necessarily transfer the salt trade and tend to increase the price of salt to the consumer. Another object is to provide for the resumption by the Government of Bengal of the administration of the Salt Department in Orissa from the Government of Madras, and the reorganisation of the controlling staff on a legal basis, while the third and last object is to introduce certain changes in the law which the experience of the past has shown to be necessary for the safeguarding of the revenue. I cannot claim to be the author of this Bill which has come to me from the hands of the Hon'ble Mr. Risley who has hitherto had charge of it, but in assuming the duty and the responsibility of conducting the Bill through the Council, I have to say that I am entirely in accord with its principles and its provisions. The Bill will be circulated to the members of the Council, and at our next meeting, I propose to give a full account of the circumstances which have given rise to the measure."

The Motion was put and agreed to.

EXTENSION OF THE POLICE ACT, V OF 1861, TO CALCUTTA AND SUBURBS.

THE Hon'ble MR. PRATT presented the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to extend certain portions of the Police Act, V of 1861, to the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta. He said:—"We have seen no reason to alter the Bill as it was introduced in Council except in one particular, and that is referred to in paragraph 2 of our report which says:—'A disturbance in an area proclaimed under the Bill may be brought about by or with the assistance of inhabitants of some other area.' This certainly was the result of actual experience during the Tallah riots last year. Between 70 and 80 persons were arrested on that occasion and prosecuted to conviction; and it was found from their own admissions, as well as from the result of independent enquiries, that a majority of those persons came from areas outside the scene of actual disturbance. Moreover it was apprehended at one time that large bodies of men from the jute mills, both up and down the river, would come into Calcutta and swell the number of the rioters. Happily that danger was averted, but still it must be borne in mind as a possible feature in any future disturbance. The report, therefore, in paragraph 2 says further:—'We have therefore, following a precedent set by a Bill recently introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council, made some additions to the schedule to this Bill with the object of authorizing the recovery from inhabitants of such other area of compensation awarded to persons who have suffered from their misconduct.' Beyond this we do not propose to go. We do not ask that these persons coming from areas outside the area actually disturbed should be called on to contribute towards the pay of the additional police quartered in the disturbed area. All we ask is that inhabitants of areas who have gone forth from their own areas to the place of disturbance for the purpose of joining in the disturbance should be liable to contribute towards the compensation of persons injured by their misconduct, injuries which are brought about very largely by the active association of these individuals with the mob. I only further desire to invite the attention of Hon'ble Members to the appendix to our report which I believe is calculated to afford useful assistance in studying the provisions of this Bill."

The Council was adjourned to Saturday, the 23rd instant.

F. G. WIGLEY,

*Offg. Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,
Legislative Dept.*

CALCUTTA,
The 17th May, 1898.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 23rd April 1898.

Present:

The Hon'ble SIR JOHN WOODBURN, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES PAUL, K.C.I.E., Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble H. H. RISLEY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble RAI DURGA GATI BANERJEA BAHADUR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYUD AMEER HOSSEIN, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble M. FINUCANE, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble W. B. OLDHAM, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble R. B. BUCKLEY.

The Hon'ble W. H. GRIMLEY.

The Hon'ble SAHIBZADA MAHOMED BAKHTYAR SHAH, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble M. C. TURNER.

The Hon'ble NORENDRA NATH SEN.

The Hon'ble SALIGRAM SINGH.

The Hon'ble KALI CHARAN BANERJEE.

The Hon'ble SURENDRANATH BANERJEE.

SALT BILL.

The Hon'ble MR. GRIMLEY introduced the Bill to amend the Salt Law in Bengal, and moved that it be read in Council. He said:—

"I have now the honour to introduce the Bill to amend the Salt Law and to move that it be read in Council.

"It has already been stated that one of the objects of the Bill is the abolition of the Rowana system, and as there may possibly be some Members of this Council who are unacquainted with the arrangements for the administration of Salt Revenue in Bengal, I will redeem my promise and give some account of the system, describing its origin, how long it has been in existence, the manner in which it operates, the part of the country affected by it, and the special circumstances that render its continuance no longer necessary. The supply of salt to Bengal in the past has been derived partly from foreign importations and partly from home manufacture, though the latter source is practically extinct. Until 1863 Government had the monopoly of manufacture, the districts on the sea-board of the Bay of Bengal being divided into salt agencies. The salt makers received advances, and stipulated to deliver their salt, when manufactured, to the agent, at a price agreed upon, and the agents stored the salt and sold it to wholesale dealers at a price fixed from year to year by the Government; but in 1864, under pressure from salt merchants in England, it was decided to abandon the monopoly altogether, and to leave the salt trade to private enterprise under a system of excise. The salt factories were scattered over large areas of coast country, all more or less impregnated with brine, along the Bay of Bengal from the southern extremity of the Chittagong district on the east to the south-western extremity of the Chilka Lake, in the district of Puri, on the west side of the Bay. In addition to the possibility of imported salt being smuggled from ships, there was the double danger of illicit manufacture in the saliferous tracts, and of smuggling from the numerous salt factories; and to guard against this a large

preventive force was maintained, and, as a further safeguard, a plan was adopted which necessitated the purchaser of a consignment of salt above the insignificant quantity of five seers, after payment of duty, obtaining a protective document termed a rowana, and also required him to convey the salt to its destination by a specified route, and while within certain defined limits, conterminous, more or less, with the salt-producing districts, to tender his rowana for the inspection of preventive officers posted at various pass stations on the way. On reaching his destination, he had to report the arrival of the salt to the preventive officer, who issued retail rowanas to cover the transport of any salt sold, until the entire batch was disposed of. This system was directed against the three forms of smuggling already mentioned, and so long as it was worked under close supervision and with an adequate establishment, there is no doubt that it served the purpose for which it was intended, especially in the prevention of smuggling from the manufacturing grounds. But since the early days of rowanas, the circumstances of salt-supply and the conditions of the salt trade have undergone important changes, and the working of the rowana system has been very much modified in consequence. Imported salt is now the main source of supply, and home manufacture, which was mostly confined to Orissa, has entirely ceased. The rowana system was withdrawn from Orissa in 1885 without any harmful results, and the salt limits have been gradually contracted elsewhere. In addition to this, the system of bonding salt in private bonded warehouses in the mufassal has been extended, and further changes may be expected on the completion of the East Coast Railway. Formerly the rules were very stringent: the sales were checked by a special preventive force, and it was the practice to test the quantities of salt mentioned in the rowana by measuring the contents of the boat at certain stations on the line of route, but this practice was abandoned, as it led to extortion; later on in 1863, the special preventive force became merged in the Bengal Police, and though it was intended that the new constabulary should be maintained in such force as to provide for the efficient performance of salt duties, yet, in later years, when sweeping reductions were made in the police force, the pruning knife was liberally applied to the preventive branch, and only a very small portion of the force was retained for those duties, the thana establishments being cut down to the minimum required to deal with ordinary crime. Formerly also a wholesale merchant wishing to sell any salt was obliged in every instance to run to the salt station with a long note of the particulars of the sale and to apply for a pass; but he is now himself empowered to issue such passes in the form of retail rowanas, and is only required to submit a monthly statement of sales to the Collector, or the nearest police. These retail rowanas are of two kinds, the atrafee and the charchitti, each covering quantities up to 100 maunds, the former being used to protect salt which is intended to be conveyed beyond the limits of the police-station within which it may be stored, and the latter to protect salt kept for sale within those limits. There is also in the district of Backergunge a sub-charchitti, used to protect quantities up to five maunds only. The submission of monthly returns of sales by holders of rowanas, both wholesale and retail, was intended to show whether the revenue was being defrauded or not, and to attract attention to that part of the country where illicit practices prevailed. The idea was to trace every particle of salt from the ship or the manufactory to the hands of the consumer. Theoretically the system is perfect, but under the changing conditions of salt administration, it has been found impracticable to carry it out with any degree of accuracy, and without seriously hampering the salt trade. Within recent years a full enquiry has been made into the working of the rowana system by Mr. Ashton, an officer belonging to the Salt Department of the North-Western Provinces, and his report unmistakably indicates that the system has no longer any protectional or statistical use. His conclusions are (1) that it is not worked effectively, (2) that it affords no protection to the salt revenue from illicit manufacture, and (3) that the returns of consumption under it are untrustworthy, as the salt-traders can so manipulate statistics as to screen illicit manufacture and the trade in untaxed salt. The possibility of making use of retail rowanas as a cloak to cover illicit transactions is clearly demonstrated. Mr. Ashton therefore recommended the abolition of the rowana

system. This proposal, however, had already been anticipated by the Hon'ble Mr. Lyall, Member of the Board of Revenue, who, in October 1893, minuted in favour of abolition, and it may not be out of place to mention that I myself, as far back as 1875, when Secretary to the Board, after a careful study of the subject, formed the opinion that there was no special advantage in retaining the system. Again in 1888 in an unofficial communication I wrote "I am not in favour of half measures, and should be inclined to try the experiment of entirely abandoning the rowana system, and to leave salt, whether imported or locally manufactured, free and unfettered by any further supervision after it has once paid duty and passed the customs or excise barrier, confining protective measures, strengthened if need be, to the places of import, manufacture and storage. In this way the rowana system, which has been termed the second line of defence, would disappear, and only the first line of defence would remain, namely, the preventive force concentrated at the head-quarters of salt operations."

"In past years smuggling was chiefly confined to the manufacturing areas, and the rowana system, when first introduced, was obviously intended to check this, the quantity of imported salt being at that time very limited, but now that licit manufacture has ceased and the area affected has been excluded from the operation of the rowana system, so far as retail rowanas are concerned, it cannot be said that the system is in any way required there. The restrictions which it imposes on the movements of salt are a serious impediment to the course of trade, which must tend to increase the price of salt to the consumer. About 28,000 wholesale rowanas, and nearly two lakhs of blank forms for atrafee rowanas, charchitties and sub-charchitties are yearly issued to the salt merchant, and when we consider the time and trouble necessary to the prompt obtaining of these passes, and the services of the men employed in the transaction, to say nothing of the fees and stamp duties, it will be readily conceived how much the trade is handicapped. The system is out of date and as a statistical record of the distribution of salt is not to be relied upon, while the check which it provides against smuggling from shipboard can be arranged for in other ways, and section 12 of the Bill has been framed to allow of this being done. The section, I may here remark, will also enable provision to be made for the collection of information corresponding to that now afforded by wholesale rowanas, showing the quantity of salt intended for despatch to various districts. There is now very little danger of any smuggling from ships in the river which cannot be controlled by the Customs preventive force. The salt traffic is mostly carried in steamers, and it is idle to suppose that a steamer would stop in the river for the purpose of selling salt. Our sources of supply are (a) salt imported by sea into the two ports of Calcutta and Chittagong; (b) salt imported by land from Ganjam; (c) salt imported by land from the north-west; and d) karkach salt manufactured in Puri on the Chilka Lake. The rowana system is no longer applied to the last three forms of supply, and it may certainly be withdrawn, as far as imported salt is concerned, without risk, though protective documents of some kind will of course be required in order to ensure payment of the Government revenue and to protect the salt owner from molestation while in the river. There will be no difficulty in securing that full duty shall be paid on all salt imported by sea, either at the time of unloading or of clearing from bond. I was reading the other day that no great work was ever done by a system, and though I am not prepared to accept this as an infallible proposition, yet it is obvious that no good work can be expected from a system that is obsolete and moribund, and the time has certainly come for relegating the rowana system to the limbo of antiquated usages.

"The second object of the Bill is to enable the Government of Bengal to resume charge of the administration of the Salt Department in Orissa. The administration of salt revenue in Orissa was placed under the control of the Madras authorities in 1886-87. The entire management of the Orissa Salt Department, including the preventive work in connexion with that Department, was taken over by them in February 1888. The main objects of this arrangement were:—

- (i) The concentration and development of manufacture of karkach or sun-dried salt.

- (ii) The abolition of the rowana system throughout Orissa.
- (iii) The gradual suppression of the manufacture of panga salt.
- (iv) The reorganization of the establishment by substituting for the agency of the District Officers and the police a departmental staff for preventive and administrative work.

"The rowana system (at least as far as retail rowanas are concerned), which had been withdrawn from Puri in 1877, was, as noticed above, abolished in the rest of Orissa in 1885; and this step does not appear to have injured the revenue in any way. The licensed manufacture of panga has also been successfully suppressed in Orissa. But the manufacture of karkach salt from which a great increase of revenue and a substantial reduction in the retail price for salt was anticipated, has been found, owing to the weakness of the brine and the frequency of storms in the Orissa coasts, to be an unprofitable venture anywhere north of the Chilka Lake. The factories started on the Chilka for the manufacture of karkach salt under the direct system of management by Government have also failed to fulfil the expectations entertained about them, owing chiefly to the inferior quality of the salt turned out at these factories and to the difficult and expensive means necessary for its transit from the factories, on account of which it cannot compete on equal terms with the better quality of salt of the neighbouring Ganjam factories. The factories on the Chilka Lake have accordingly been closed lately by Government.

"The preventive establishment in Orissa has also been found to be very costly; and it cannot be said that this costly establishment has done conspicuously better work than the agency it replaced.

"In these circumstances, the administration of the Salt Department in Orissa has lately been retransferred to Bengal, and the work of administration has been actually resumed by the Government of Bengal, with effect from the 1st October 1897. The Salt Department in Orissa is at present administered under the Indian Salt Act, XII of 1882; and it is intended that this Bill, which repeals Act VII of 1864 which legalises rowanas, and is now in force in the whole of Bengal, except the Patna, Bhagalpur and Orissa Divisions and the town of Calcutta, should contain provisions which will cover the whole of Bengal, including Orissa; the saltpetre refineries in the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions and in the town of Calcutta continuing to be worked under the Indian Salt Act.

"The third object of the Bill is to introduce certain changes in the law which experience has shown to be necessary in the interests of the salt revenue. I have already said that the time has come for abolishing the rowana system, but the removal of this restriction will render necessary the provision of other safeguards.

"The result of the enquiries made by Mr. Ashton in the coast districts of Bengal places it beyond a doubt that illicit manufacture is carried on on a large scale for the purpose of sale in certain parts, and more especially in the Sunderbuns tracts, which occupy a space of nearly 4,000 square miles of the 24-Paraganas district. On this point I will let Mr. Ashton speak for himself. He writes thus—

"29. Salt used formerly to be made in considerable quantities along the whole line of the Sundarbans, from the Bussunti river (about 10 miles below Port Canning) south-westward to Saugor Island. Sites of old salt works, indicated by heaps of broken red pottery, may be seen on both banks of the Mutlah river on the edge of the forest, and further to the south-west they are to be met with almost everywhere on the banks of the innumerable creeks which intersect the dense jungle below the clearings. As I have already explained, the jungle of the section of the forest being dealt with is not of a kind which would render the manufacture of salt impracticable. Small clearings, natural or artificial, are numerous, salt efflorescence appears within the jungle itself where this is at all thin, and, even if this were not so, a space sufficient for a salt work could be cleared in a few hours. The soil is so extremely rich in saline matter that a clearing of a few hundred square yards only is amply sufficient to provide efflorescence for the working of a salt factory of considerable importance, and of course the supply of fuel is inexhaustible. With these facilities there is almost perfect immunity from capture, in fact, but very little chance of detection even, and a ready means of sending away large quantities of salt exists in the numerous boats which

move about the creeks. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising to find that salt manufacture on a considerable scale is carried on in these jungles. That this is so there is no doubt whatever, as I shall proceed to show. Salt is made on the Bussunti river south of Port Canning, in Sundarbans Lots Nos. 36, 37, 38 and 40 south-east of the Jainagar police-station, in Lot No. 116 south of Muttrapur, in Lot No. 16 south of Kulpi, and in the jungles at the north of Saugor island; in fact, along the whole upper fringe of the section of the Sundarbans from the neighbourhood of Port Canning down to Saugor, a distance of about fifty miles in a straight line. I base this assertion on personal experience, the statements of the Police, information given to me by private individuals, and the wide area of country over which I found this salt beings sold in both the 24-Parganas and the Khulna districts. The manufacture and the trade are carried on in the most secret manner. The factories are situate on the banks of creeks in the densest jungle, and can only be discovered by accident or by the help of guides. Around them are small clearings a few hundred square yards in extent, on which salt efflorescence, of a richness which allows of its being roughly scraped up to a depth of three to four inches, appears profusely, and in the creeks close by and in the jungle around there are inexhaustible supplies of sea water and fuel. A jungle salt factory comprises a furnace for boiling down brine and one or more earthen filters. In constructing a furnace two rough earthen walls, from two to three feet apart, from three to four feet in height, and from four to six feet in length, are built parallel to each other; and the space between them is roofed over in dome-shaped form with an admixture of stiff mud and twigs. Circular spaces, varying in number from four to eight, are left open in this domed roof, and upon these, small iron boilers, each about two feet in diameter, are placed for the purpose of boiling down brine. The earthen filters are constructed in precisely the same way as that which has been already described in connection with the Midnapore district, but are far larger, their diameter varying from six feet to as much as eight feet. Salt efflorescence, from the surface of the clearing around the factory, having been lixiviated in these filters, the brine so obtained is boiled down in the iron boilers placed upon the circular open spaces in the dome-shaped roof of the furnace, a brisk fire of jungle fuel is kept up between the parallel walls, and as the salt precipitates in the boilers, it is scooped out of them and stored in a heap on the ground to drain and dry. The salt so produced is very like that produced in the Midnapore district, white and small in grain, not unlike Liverpool, but of poorer colour and brilliancy and liable to absorb moisture. Each of the iron boilers used is said to turn out from a maund to a maund and a half per diem, and the quantity of salt produced daily on a factory with a furnace of eight boilers would therefore amount to from 8 to 12 maunds. In the case of factories situate near the clearings some salt is carried inland in head-loads, as there are no roads and no other means of carriage; but the greater quantity is conveyed away in boats which come down the line of the Sundarbans for the purpose and steal about the creeks in a most unobtrusive manner. From what has been said it will be apparent that the quantity of salt produced in the Sundarbans must be considerable and the trade important. The area over which it is openly sold would go to prove this. I found it selling openly by retail in the town of Jainagar about ten miles north of the Sundarbans, at Bhangorhat, within the limits of the Hurwa Police-station, and at Husainabad on the Esamati river far to the north-east on the border of the Khulna district. About fifteen miles south of Husainabad I found it being sold wholesale at the mart of Hingulganj, on the Esamati river in the 24-Parganas district and on the Khulna border. From Husainabad it is said to be carried up the Esamati river towards Basirhat; and the Police informed me that they suspected that it was sent to the Kidderpore and Tollyganj markets on the outskirts of Calcutta. In the Khulna district, I found it selling within the jurisdiction of the Kaliganj, Asasuni and Paikgacha police-stations, up to a point about fifteen miles south-west of Khulna itself. This is a wide area, and the fact of the salt being on view without any attempt at concealment in so many permanent shops, in a country where there are so few of these, would go to show that its consumption is very widespread. The boats carrying it follow the lines of least resistance, so to speak, and as the river lines trend to the north-eastward, so the traces of the illicit trade may be noticed in the same direction. I could not find any trace of the salt in the neighbourhood of Calcutta. It is said to be carried there in bags intermingled with bags of paddy, and if such a trade does exist, which is not unlikely, the salt probably passes up the Hooghly river to areas beyond Salt Law limits. I found the salt selling both in a pure state and also in admixture with Liverpool salt. In the Sundarbans it is said to sell at 24 seers per rupee, or Rs. 1-10-8 per maund, and a retail dealer at Asasuni in the Khulna district told me that it was obtainable at Husainabad in the 24-Parganas district at Re. 1-14-0 per maund, and that he had purchased it at Rs. 2-8-0 per maund from boats passing his village. As a general rule, this illicit salt is sold to consumers at the same price as the duty paid article, and the lowest rate was Rs. 3-12-0 per maund retail. The trade is a lucrative one, and there is every reason to believe that it is financed and carried on by wholesale dealers who profess to trade in duty-paid salt only, of which they keep small stores in their shops to divert suspicion. It could hardly be carried on to the extent that it is were it not for an organization of some sort, as it is not only the settlers on the line of clearings who manufacture salt. Men from the inland country go down to the Sundarbans in not inconsiderable numbers for the express purpose of working salt factories. It was said by local residents that from the neighbourhood of Jainagar alone, some five hundred men, "Podhs"

(low-caste Hindus) and Muhammadans go down to the Sundarbans every season for the express purpose of working salt factories. The implements required for such factories are cheap and few in number, iron boilers costing from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2 each, two or three phowrahs, and a few earthen vessels for carrying brine. Even so, however, there must be some organization which arranges for adequate boat carriage at timely seasons and for the distribution of the salt over a wide area of country. The season for manufacture begins after the cessation of the monsoon, as soon as the heat of the sun has dried the jungle and salt efflorescence begins to appear. It continues throughout the cold season, and until about April, with the greatest briskness. It then slackens somewhat, as the south wind and storms oblige boats to traverse river channels with caution, and the exceptionally high spring tides flood the jungle lands and check manufacture by obliterating salt efflorescence. Some factories are deserted at this season, but at others work goes on during the intervals between spring tides, until the fall of the first showers of the monsoon. I have spoken of the safety with which this kind of manufacture can be carried on. To avoid being tedious I will relate briefly the experiences of three days in illustration. Coming down the Piali river, the launch anchored near Balaharnia, a small hamlet of seven houses, inhabited by Uriyas and Bengalis, and situate in a small, newly-formed clearing. On going ashore I found quantities of salt efflorescence scraped up all about the village, earthen filters were working in the jungle round about, and in some brushwood a little distance from the houses I found about ten seers of illicit salt in an earthen vessel, which the owner had evidently removed from his house on seeing the Police launch arrive. I had heard that a salt factory was being worked by these villagers, but it was hopeless to look for it in the dense jungle without some definite indication. Next day the Police took me to see some salt factories which they had seized some months before. Going down the river channel, we reached the mouth of a creek during the ebb, and the water was so shallow, and the current so strong that we had to wait for the flood. We went up the creek at last, could not find one cluster of factories, but found the second one owing to the jungle having been cut down, and then had to wait for the ebb in order to get back to the launch. Returning to Balaharnia, after being absent the whole day, I found that one of the men of the village, who had quarrelled with his fellows, was ready to show me the salt factory in the forest for a consideration. He led me about a mile into the jungles, and on the bank of a creek, and on the edge of a clearing, I found a working salt factory with a large earthen filter eight feet in diameter, a furnace arranged for eight iron boilers and a platform on a neighbouring tree as a retreat from tigers. There was no one at the factory, and the boilers had of course been removed. The factory was in regular work, and in fact salt had been produced that very day, as the traces showed. From what I saw it was clear that the manufacture within the houses was being carried on by the women and children, and that this jungle factory was the business of the men. On the third day I started to the south-westward with two Uriya wood-cutters as guides to see some salt factories which were known to exist in that direction. The Police had visited some of them earlier in the season, but the jungle was so dense, and the creeks so numerous and so alike, that they were quite unable to act as guides. The Uriyas found one set of factories with difficulty, and it was apparent that salt had been made shortly before, as there were traces of it on the ground where it had been placed in a heap to drain, and the fires were still alight in the furnaces. In searching for the second group of works, we lost ourselves in the maze of creeks and our guides failed us; we had to force our way up a creek, with dense jungle almost meeting over our heads, towards a clearing in which there was a hamlet about two miles away; from this hamlet we got a guide, a salt manufacturer himself, who took us to the second group of factories, which was situate in dense dwarf date jungle. These works were about fifty in number, and the ground about them was a perfect swamp owing to the spring tides having flooded the jungle. Returning, another group of salt factories was seen in a clearing on the bank of a river channel. We went down this channel at the close of the ebb, and could see nothing as we were twenty feet and more below the top of the bank. Returning, we came on the top of the flood, on a level with the jungle, and were then able to see the clearing and the salt factories in it. These details will give an idea of the difficulties in connection with the detection of salt manufacture in the Sundarbans. The manufacturers themselves work in perfect safety. The Police cannot reach them by way of the clearings to the northward without being noticed and warning being given; and during the ebb boats cannot come up the creeks from the southward against the strong tidal current. Even if a surprise is effected, all the men have to do is to take the iron boilers off the furnaces and disappear with them into the jungle. In such cases the Police have endeavoured to destroy the factories, but this has practically no effect, as any damage done is repaired in a very short time. Even if the earthen filters and furnaces were to be entirely demolished, new ones could be constructed in a few hours.

“Mr. Ashton estimates the loss of revenue from illicit manufacture in the 24-Parganas at Rs. 1,50,000, a sum which was arrived at by assuming that at least 500 men are engaged per six months in illicit manufacture, each working 20 days a month, and making not less than a maund of salt per diem. Mr. Ashton's enquiries have been tested by further investigations conducted by Mr. Ross, the Commissioner of the Sunderbans, and by Babu Madhu Suchan Chaudhari, Assistant Superintendent of Police. In the course of enquiries extending over 500 square miles, Mr. Ross discovered 21 factories, each fitted with from four to eight boilers, and his experiments showed that a six-boiler

factory was capable of turning out $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of salt a day, and it is patent that these boilers were not intended to produce salt for mere petty home consumption. This officer's report derives especial value from the fact that he had at first been rather sceptical about the existence of illicit manufacture on a large scale, and seemed to consider that Mr. Ashton had over-estimated its extent, but when he came to investigate the matter personally he formed a different opinion. Babu Madhu Sudhan Chaudhari travelled over 700 miles of the Sunderbans and came across seven big centres of illicit manufacture in which there were as many as 186 factories, in working order, of the type described by Mr. Ashton, and he further reports that he received authentic information from eye-witnesses that in 12 other centres manufacture was carried on in open factories from November to April by professional manufacturers for the purpose of trade. It is difficult to say with any accuracy what the loss of revenue is from this manufacture, it is estimated by different observers at from $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakh to 6 lakhs of rupees, but it is evident that it must be very considerable from the reports already mentioned and also from the fact that the consumption of salt in the thanas where illicit manufacture goes on is far below the average.

"Illicit manufacture is also believed to be carried on to some extent in the districts of Midnapore and Chittagong.

"It has accordingly been decided to employ in the coast districts of Bengal such a preventive establishment as will be able to deal effectively with the illicit dealings in salt by striking at the very root of illicit manufacture. Such an establishment is intended to be permanently entertained in the 24-Parganas and the districts in Orissa, but it is also proposed to employ a small establishment tentatively to prevent smuggling and illicit dealings in salt that may be prevalent in the districts of Chittagong, Midnapore, Backergunge and Khulna.

"It will be useless, however, to employ these establishments unless the law is strengthened in such a way as to enable the officers employed to deal effectively with persons who make an improper use of salt-earth in defraud of the revenue. Power is, therefore, taken in the Bill to enable the Local Government to regulate and limit the excavation, collection, possession and sale of salt-earth in specified areas in saliferous tracts. It is not intended to interfere with the poorer classes who may make use of small quantities of salt-earth which they may find at their very doors for cheapening domestic consumption. It has always been, I rejoice to say and will, I am confident, continue to be, the policy of Government to deal leniently with such persons, but the persons against whom the provisions of the Bill are directed are those who collect large quantities of salt-earth in order to manufacture panga salt for sale, and the traders who purchase such salt and make large profits from the sale of it. The Bill has been circulated, and has been revised with reference to the opinion received which are, on the whole, favourable, and I have now to move that it be read in Council.

The Motion was put and agreed to.

The Bill was read accordingly.

EXTENSION OF THE POLICE ACT, V OF 1861, TO CALCUTTA AND SUBURBS.

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE, with the leave on the Council, postponed till the next meeting the following motions standing in his name, namely—"that the Report on the Bill to extend certain portions of the Police Act, V of 1861, to the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, be taken into consideration, and that the clauses of the Bill be considered in the form recommended by the Select Committee," and "that the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The Council adjourned to Saturday, the 30th April 1898.

CALCUTTA;
The 17th May, 1898.

F. G. WIGLEY,
Offg. Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,
Legislative Department.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber on Saturday, the 30th April, 1898.

P r e s e n t :

The Hon'ble SIR JOHN WOODBURN, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding.*

The Hon'ble SIR CHARLES PAUL, K.C.I.E., Advocate-General of Bengal.

The Hon'ble H. H. RISLEY, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble RAI DURGA GATI BANERJEA, BAHADUR, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble NAWAB SYUD AMEER HOSSEIN, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble M. FINUCANE, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble W. B. OLDHAM, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble R. B. BUCKLEY.

The Hon'ble W. H. GRIMLEY.

The Hon'ble SAHIBZADA MAHOMED BAKHTYAR SHAH, C.I.E.

The Hon'ble M. C. TURNER.

The Hon'ble NORENDRA NATH SEN.

The Hon'ble SALIGRAM SINGH.

The Hon'ble KALI CHARAN BANERJEE.

The Hon'ble SURENDRANATH BANERJEE.

The Hon'ble JATRA MOHAN SEN.

CONSTRUCTION OF BUNDS.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked:—

Is the Government aware that Tauzi No. 880, Chuddo Hazari, a mahal situate in the Contai sub-division of the district of Midnapore, has been permanently settled with the proprietors of Jullamutha Estate, and that Tauzi No 2720, Mutas Kaleender Balushye, has been settled with the same proprietors, one of the conditions entered in the *potta* being that the proprietors will have the privilege of constructing *bunds* with a view to reclaim the lands and bring them under cultivation? Is it the case that in contravention of such a condition, a Notification, No. 243 of the 8th December, 1896, has been issued, prohibiting the construction of *bunds* in the tracts between the sea-dyke and the Bay of Bengal, where these lands lie, with the result that the proprietors have been put to heavy loss every year, as they are prevented from bringing these lands under cultivation?

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE replied:—

“Mahal Chaddo Hazari, bearing tauzi No. 880 in the Midnapore Collectorate, was permanently settled with the proprietors of the Jalamutha Estate; there is no condition in the *kabuliyat* that the proprietor will have the right to construct *bunds*; there is a condition that if *bunds* are required they must be paid for by the proprietor and not by Government. Mahal Mutas Kaleendar Balushye, bearing tauzi No. 2720, was temporarily settled with the same proprietor from 1st April, 1887 to 31st March, 1893; the lease, the term of which has expired, contained no reference to *bunds*. It is correct that a Notification No. 243 of the 8th December, 1896, was issued proposing to

extend the provisions of clause (b), section 76 of the Embankment Act over an area between the sea-dyke and the Bay of Bengal, and prohibiting the erection of any new embankment or addition to any existing one. The Notification was issued under the powers vested in the Lieutenant-Governor under the Embankment Act, and was necessitated in the interests of the tract of country some 1,000 square miles in extent behind the sea-dyke, the drainage from which passes by sluices through the dyke, and so by channels across the foreshore to the sea. If the foreshore were enclosed by embankments to the exclusion of the tides, the scour from which at present keep these channels from silting, the channels would fill up, resulting in the vast area behind the sea-dyke becoming water logged. It has not been possible within the time available to have the necessary local enquiry to ascertain how the lands of the two mahals in question lie in relation to the area covered by the Notification referred to, but it is not thought that the foreshore lands, which are subject to the action of the tides, could ever have been of value to the proprietor; while, as has been explained, it is not possible to allow them to be enclosed and cultivated without resulting damage to a much larger tract of country. The policy of discouraging the construction of *bunds* in the area covered by the Notification is in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee who were appointed in 1889 to consider the effect and causes of the floods in the Midnapore district. The immediate cause of the Notification was the construction of a ring embankment which obstructed twelve of the water-courses referred to."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked:—

(a) Is the Government aware that about a year ago Rani Hari Priya Debi, eight-anna proprietor of the Jullamutha Estate, submitted a memorial to Government to allow her to construct *bunds*, and that no order has yet been passed upon the memorial; and that Babu Bhupendranarain Roy, the other eight-anna proprietor of the Julamala Estate, submitted a petition to the Collector of Midnapore as Superintendent of embankments in that district, praying that he may be allowed to construct *bunds* as provided for by Government when making the settlement, and that no order has yet been passed upon the memorial?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to pass early orders on the memorials, so that the proprietors may not be subjected to further heavy losses in the future?

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE replied:—

"(a) It is correct that Rani Hari Priya Debi submitted a memorial to Government for permission to construct embankments on her estate; it is also correct that Babu Bhupendranarain Roy submitted a similar petition to the Collector of Midnapore, upon which the Superintending Engineer has recently reported.

"(b) The matter, which is a difficult and complicated one, is still under consideration, but as at present advised, Government can hold out no hope to the petitioners of the possibility of acceding to their requests."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked:—

Is the Government aware that the Executive Engineer of Balasore has been prosecuting the land-holders within the prohibited area before the Criminal Courts with a view to prevent them from constructing petty *bunds*, and is it the case that convictions in these cases have been upset on appeal either by the Sessions Judge or the High Court? Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of the number of such proprietors with the result of the criminal prosecutions instituted against them before the Sub-divisional Magistrate and the result on appeal or revision?

The Hon'ble Mr. FINUCANE replied:—

"Government is not at present in possession of complete information as to the number of criminal prosecutions instituted by the Executive Engineer of Balasore or as to the result of them on appeal or revision. It is understood that cases have been instituted under the provisions of the law, where amicable negotiations had failed. Further enquiry will be made on the subject."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked:—

Is the Government aware that the entire portion of the Majamutha Estate, which is held under the direct management of Government, has been excluded from the prohibitory tract, and will the Government state why this indulgence has been shown to the Government, and why the proprietors of private properties have been debarred from it?

The Hon'ble Mr. FINUCANE replied:—

"It was considered necessary to extend the prohibition of the Notification only to such areas as were within one mile of any drainage channel, beyond which distance it was not considered that the prejudicial effect of embankments upon the water-courses would be operative. The lands of the Majnamutha estate fall beyond the limit prescribed, and were not therefore included in the Notification. In any case Government would not erect embankments which would be injurious, and it would be unnecessary for Government by notification to prohibit itself from doing what it had no intention of doing."

THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked:—

I have the honour to call attention to the observations noted in

*The Lieutenant-Governor now sanctions the introduction of the new scheme with effect from 1st August, 1896. His Honour observes that, owing to the narrowness of the scale of the Provincial Service, as compared with existing salaries, the prospect of officers in the lower classes are very discouraging. For instance, officers now placed in class VI on Rs. 250 of the service are all in class III (Rs. 200—250—300) of the existing service, and before they can receive any increase of pay, they must rise to the top of class VI, and then move slowly to the top of class V. He also observes that the Provincial Service of other Provinces are practically devoid of class VIII on Rs. 150. Sir Alexander Mackenzie regrets this state of things, and, with a view to improving the prospects of Provincial Service officers, he proposes at an early date to consider whether something may not be done by assigning a greater number of appointments to some of the intermediate classes.

the margin which occur in paragraph 20* of the Government Resolution on the re-organisation of the Education Department, dated the 26th March, 1897, and to ask what steps, if any, have been taken for giving effect to the intentions of the Government for improving the position of officers in the lower classes of the Provincial Service of the Education Department, and if not, whether, having regard to the savings effected by the re-organisation scheme, will the Govern-

ment be pleased to give full effect to the intentions of Sir Alexander Mackenzie in this respect?

The Hon'ble Mr. FINUCANE replied:—

"The Provincial Educational Service was benefitted by the re-organisation scheme to the extent of some Rs. 60,000 a year. Sir Alexander Mackenzie submitted proposals to the Government of India by which further benefits would be conferred on the lower grades of that service, but the Government of India were unable to grant further concessions."

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to state (a) how many vacancies have occurred in the different grades of the Provincial Service since the date of the re-organisation; (b) how many vacancies in the 6th and 7th classes have been filled up by promotions from the Subordinate Service, how many by appointments (c)

outsiders and how many by promotions of officers in the VII and VIII classes respectively of the Provincial Service; (c) whether this practice of appointing outsiders and promoting from the subordinate ranks has not materially prejudiced the prospects of officers in these two classes; (d) whether, considering the block that exists, Government thinks it desirable to grant any extension to officers who have already attained their 55 years and to promote officers in the Subordinate Service to Provincial posts, to the detriment of officers already in that service; (e) whether if the exigencies of the service make such promotions unavoidable, will the Government be pleased to place officers thus promoted to the last class of the Provincial Service with personal allowances equal to the difference of their pay and that of class VIII of that service, without superseding those who are already in the Provincial Service?

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE replied:—

“(a)—The vacancies which have occurred in the different grades of the Provincial Service since the date of re-organisation are—1 in class I; 2 in class III; 2 in class IV; 2 in class V; 5 in class VI; 3 in class VII and 3 in class VIII. These vacancies in the several classes include those which arose from death, retirement and promotion.

“(b) The vacancies mentioned above imply 12 vacancies in class VI; of these none has been filled up by promotion from the Subordinate Service, three have been filled up by the appointment of native gentlemen who were outsiders, to the vacancies caused by the retirement from the Indian Service of Sir Alfred Croft and Messrs. Ewbank and Stack, and another outsider will take the place of Mr. Robson, who has been transferred to the Punjab. The remainder either have been or will be filled by promotions from class VII. The vacancies in class VII, as implied by the figures given in answer to (a) would be 15. These must be reduced by the four outsiders; so that they come to 11 in all; of these three have been filled by the appointment of officers from the Subordinate Service. The remainder either have been or will be filled up by promotions from class VIII.

“(c) The practice of ‘appointing outsiders’ existed under the old system and cannot be altogether avoided if the efficiency of the Department is to be maintained. There have been three cases of promotion from the subordinate ranks. These have been treated as exceptional cases. Two of the officers had been selected by Sir Alfred Croft for special preferment in the former Subordinate Service, and would have found a place in the Provincial Service had the re-organisation taken place at a somewhat later date. It was thought right that they should take the places in the Provincial list according to the relative positions formerly held in the former Subordinate Service by those into whose ranks they were being admitted. The third officer stood next to these two, and it was thought right that he should receive similar treatment. It has been ruled that if an Officer is in future promoted from the Subordinate to the Provincial list, he shall be placed at the bottom of the class corresponding in pay to that which, as a Subordinate Service Officer, he had been receiving. Instances of this kind will be rare.

“(d) As regards extensions of service to officers who have attained the age of 55, the Government is bound by the orders contained in Article 503 of the Civil Service Regulations, which, on financial grounds, discountenance the compulsory retirement of an efficient officer, except for special reasons.

“(e) For financial reasons it is not possible to act upon the suggestion made by the Hon'ble Member.”

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE said :—

I have the honour to call attention to the remarks noted in the margin contained in the 7th paragraph* of the Resolution of the Government of India, dated the 23rd July, 1896, and to ask (a) how many officers teaching general subjects and how many teaching oriental languages have not been included in the Provincial Service; (b) whether the last four appointments of class VIII (*vide* Resolution No. 1244, dated the 26th March, 1898, of the Government of Bengal) are not new appointments not originally included in the assigned number 107 of the Provincial Service sanctioned by the Government of India; (c) if they are new, whether it would not be more consistent with the spirit of the Government Resolution quoted above to create four additional posts in that service, having regard to its subsequent increased needs which were not contemplated before; (d) whether the present arrangement has not seriously prejudiced the interests of the Professors who were already in the Education Service at the date of the last letter (No. 2832, dated the 14th August, 1895,) of the Government of Bengal on the subject of the re-organisation of the Education Department, but were placed in the Subordinate Service list?

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE replied :—

“(a) Two officers in the Bethune College for Ladies and one officer in the Chittagong College, who teach general subjects, have not been included in the Provincial Service. College Maulvis and Pandits, who have not been so included, are ten in number. The Provincial Service cadre was fixed on the supposition that three such appointments should be given to the Bethune College, and two to the Chittagong College, and this has been done. If more consideration were shewn to these institutions, it could only be done at the expense of the larger and more important Government institutions. As regards Professors of Oriental Languages it so happens that one more than the number originally intended for admission is now actually employed in the Provincial Service.

“(b) The last four appointments are not new appointments properly speaking. They have in no way increased the number of appointments originally fixed for the several colleges. In the case of Babu Hriday Chandra Bannerjee, he is in addition to the complement originally assigned to the Presidency College, but in consequence of this the Dacca College is one short of its assigned number.

“(c) The appointments are not new.

“(d) The interests of Professors who remain in the subordinate list are not, it is believed, injuriously affected by the changes which have taken place, as some of their number will doubtless in time find a place in the Provincial Service, and it may be presumed that all round they will be gainers.”

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked :—

Whether having regard to the very great inconvenience and hardship entailed on the officers of the Subordinate Service by the new scheme being held in abeyance on the one hand, and the practical suspension of their promotion under the old scheme on the other, will the Government be pleased to issue a revised promotion list according to the old Subordinate Service scale, until the orders with regard to the new scheme have been received from the Government of India?

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE replied:—

"The Government of Bengal has asked the Government of India to allow the scheme which has been placed in abeyance to be resuscitated, with retrospective effect, and as the interests of officers are as far as possible being safe-guarded, no good would come of issuing a revised list according to the old Subordinate Service scale."

ALLEDGED LAWLESSNESS IN BURRA BAZAR.

The Hon'ble BABU NORENDRA NATH SEN asked:—

Whether it is known to Government that, notwithstanding all that has recently been done to suppress lawlessness at Burra Bazar in Calcutta by legislative and executive measures, there still exists in that locality a band of professional ruffians, called *Gundahs*, who habitually terrorize over people; and if so, what steps, if any, it is intended to keep them under more efficient control, and stamp out the evil altogether, if possible?

The Hon'ble MR. FINUCANE replied:—

"The Commissioner of Police reports that so far as he knows there are no bands of *gundahs* in Burra Bazar at present. He has received no complaints of lawlessness or terrorism for several months back. Should there be any outbreaks of lawlessness or terrorism in Burra Bazar or elsewhere in Calcutta, Government will take prompt measures to suppress them."

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE asked:—

Will the Government be pleased to make a statement with regard to the suspicious cases of plague which have recently appeared in Calcutta? Are they cases of true bubonic plague? Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the Report of Dr. Haffkine on the subject.

The Hon'ble BABU NORENDRA NATH SEN said:—

In view of the panic and alarm caused in Calcutta by the reports of several suspicious cases of plague in the City and of the exodus that has already commenced, I have the honour to enquire to what extent the Government will be prepared to mitigate the stringency of the rules in regard to the arrangements required to be made for segregation and disinfection, in the case of respectable people, especially as regards *purdah* women and children, in the event of an outbreak of the plague?

(a) Have any cases occurring in Calcutta been reported to Government as cases of plague?

(b) Has Government taken any steps to ascertain if there are or were real cases of plague? If so, what are those steps?

(c) Has Dr. Haffkine pronounced any opinion as to the nature of the bacilli he may have found in the blood and fluid of the glands of patients that were sent to him? Is Government aware that there are differences of medical opinion as regards the bacteriological diagnosis of plague; that the true bacillus of plague, if there is any, has not yet been positively determined—that some say it is Kitasato's bacillus, others that it is Yersin's,—which is the true plague bacillus? Others again have said that there is a third variety which is found in plague cases, and that it is yet uncertain which is the real pathogenic bacillus. Under these circumstances, would it not be premature

to declare Calcutta to be a plague-stricken city? If Government had acted on the opinion of the late Health Officer of the Calcutta Corporation, Dr. Simpson, Calcutta would long ago have been declared as such. Would it have been proper to do so?

The Hon'ble Mr. TURNER asked:—

Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the alleged cases of plague in Calcutta during the past week, or cases of disease resembling plague, and will the Government be pleased to state the result of the enquiries made in connection with the said cases?

The Hon'ble Mr. RISLEY replied:—

"I will answer all the questions relating to plague together. The facts are as follows:—On the night of the 16th April a sudden death from fever, accompanied by swelling of the glands of the left groin, occurred in Kapitalola, a crowded locality near Bow Bazar. The *post-mortem* examination showed symptoms which were regarded by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, the Sanitary Commissioner and the Health Officer of Calcutta as suspicious. On the other hand an experienced local practitioner considered the case to be one of septicæmic fever of a type known to him as not uncommon in Calcutta. The deceased was a native of Eastern Bengal, resident in Calcutta, and there was no evidence whatever of his having had any communication with persons coming from the areas in Bombay and the Panjab which are infected with plague. The house in which he died was thoroughly disinfected; all persons who had been in contact with him were removed to a segregation camp in Narkooldanga; and all clothes which might convey infection were burned, compensation being at once paid to their owners. Cultures were made from the important organs and were sent to Monsieur Haffkine at Bombay for bacteriological examination.

"On the following day three other persons in Kapitalola were found to be suffering from somewhat similar symptoms. One of these, a boy two years and-a-half old, has since died, and the other two are under observation. Seven other persons who had been in contact with the deceased were discharged after detention for ten days, during which time they showed no suspicious symptoms.

"A Dom who assisted at the *post-mortem* examination got accidentally pricked in the finger, and has been dangerously ill, but is now reported to be recovering.

"On the 27th April three more cases occurred in the neighbourhood of Kapitalola, one of which was fatal.

"On the 24th April four cases, of which three were fatal, occurred in Market Street and Municipal Office Street, and on the same day a man died with suspicious symptoms at 39, Ezra Street. On the 27th four more cases occurred in the same locality, two of which have proved fatal. There were three cases, one fatal, on the 28th; and two more, one of which died, occurred yesterday.

"On the 25th April a bearer in the employ of Messrs. Kilburn and Company died suddenly at 4, Fairlie Place, and on the following day a second bearer of the same firm died in Jaun Bazar.

"On the morning of the 28th a man employed in Clive Street was admitted into the contagious ward of the Campbell Hospital with suspicious symptoms, and died the same evening.

"On the 27th April four cases were admitted into the Medical College Hospital from Phear's Lane, Chunam Gully and Champatola.

"Owing to the admitted existence in Calcutta at all times of the year of a form of fever accompanied by bubonic swellings, which on occasions proves fatal, and in view of the fact that the general death-rate of the town for the week ending the 23rd April was only 31·3 per thousand per annum as compared with 38·9, the mean death-rate of the corresponding period for the last five years, there seemed until yesterday morning to be room for

Puri.—Rainfall at Puri '58, Khurda '11. *Dalua* paddy ripening. *Mung* being harvested. State of other *rabi* crops generally good. Land being ploughed for next winter rice crop. Cattle-disease not reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows:—

			Srs.	ch.	
Puri and Khurda	15 12	} per rupee.
Interior of district	15 7	
				19 11	

Hazaribagh.—Rainfall at Sadar '37. Some rain and slight hail. Weather still threatening and hot. A full crop of *mahua* being gathered. Mango promising. Rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Lohardaga.—Rainfall at Sadar '60. Gathering of *mahua* continues. Rice sells at Ranchi 11 seers, and in the interior from 12 to 16 seers per rupee. Cattle-disease continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Grain in stock sufficient.

Palamau.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. *Rabi* harvest continues; 12 annas outturn expected. *Mahua* falling; 8 annas outturn expected. Sugarcane and *china* doing well. Cattle-disease reported from Garhwa. Fodder and water sufficient.

Maubhum.—Rainfall at Sadar '94. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops good. Cattle-disease reported from thanas Purulia and Raghunathpur. Fodder and water sufficient. Average price of common rice at Sadar 15 seers per rupee. Supply sufficient.

Singhbhum.—Rainfall '13. Rice plentiful. Price from 12 to 16 seers per rupee.

General Summary.—Rain fell generally and in fair quantities over the Province during the week. Ploughing is now going on, and the sowing of early rice and jute has begun in parts. The spring rice and indigo have improved. In Orissa the spring rice is ripening and is being harvested in places. The young sugarcane and *china* and *mung* millets are doing well. The *rabi* harvest is practically over, and the outturn for the Province as a whole is estimated at 16½ annas. The *mahua* crop is being gathered, and a good outturn is expected except in Palamau, where it is only 8 annas. There was a slight rise in the price of rice in some districts. Some cattle-disease is reported from the 24-Parganas, Pabna, Monghyr, Purnea, the Sonthal Parganas, Lohardaga, Palamau, and Maubhum. Fodder-supply is reported sufficient except from the Sonthal Parganas. Deficiency of water-supply is reported from places in Nadia, Jessore, Rangpur, Dacca, Chittagong, and the Sonthal Parganas.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

The 19th April 1898.

M. FINUCANE,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

IMPORTS INTO CALCUTTA.

The following Statement shows the Quantities of the Principal Staples of Traffic imported into Calcutta from the Interior by Rail, Road, River (Country-boat and Steamer), and Canal during the month of November 1897.

Whence imported.	FOOD-GRAINS.						FIBROUS PRODUCTS.				OILSEEDS.				Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	Coal and coke.	Indigo.	SUGAR.		TOBACCO.				
	RICE AND PADDY.		Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags.	Linsseed.	Mustard seed.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.						Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
	Rice.	Paddy.																									Total (in rivs).
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
BENGAL.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.			
Burdwan	1,27,483	30,321	1,46,483	760	760	1,47,243	3,108	29,761	241	192	170	28,18,747	48	10	22	29	1	9								
Birbhum	73,797	73,797	73,797	1,351	1,351	73,914	1,351	5,090	241	333	110	5,899	3	300	270	38	4,066	1,812								
Midnapore	1,74,454	22,332	2,03,176	1,819	1,819	2,03,517	1,692	12,346	6,218	3,312	64	5,899	3	300	270	38	4,066	1,812								
Hooahly	99,254	22,332	1,13,129	42	42	1,13,087	3,27,893	284,235	6,218	3,312	407	6,899	24	739	1,106	68	2,270	844								
24-Parganas	75,290	16,314	85,505	8	8	88,355	2,79,018	25,351	13,199	847	100	648	24	739	1,106	68	2,270	844								
Nadia	20,065	1,527	21,019	303	303	21,322	27,092	25,351	13,199	847	100	648	24	739	1,106	68	2,270	844								
Murshidabad	1,294	450	1,294	61	61	11,002	27,092	1,689	1,445	850	474	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Jessore	2,551	450	2,551	26	26	2,803	1,40,411	1,615	1,445	850	474	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Khulna	837	125	1,415	26	26	1,415	60,850	280	1,445	850	474	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Kajshahi	1,554	927	1,554	927	927	1,554	1,79,068	25	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Dinajpur	107	107	107	100	100	1,534	1,49,970	191,540	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Jaisaiguri	675	675	675	182	182	1,534	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Darjeeling	1	1	1	182	182	811	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Rangpur	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Bogra	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Patna	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Cooch Behar	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Dacca	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Mymensingh	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Fariapur	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Backergunge	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Tongi	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
No khali	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Chittagong	1	1	1	1	1	1	24,728	92,855	870	87	427	1,834	248	150	9,350	1,834	1,834									
Total of Bengal	6,40,762	85,831	7,00,403	4,032	4,032	7,04,435	47,80,355	1,905,315	76,193	18,786	1,281	28,32,110	75	5,094	33,614	26,937	2,096									
BIHAR.																										
Patna	476	476	476	553	553	51,978	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Gaya	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Shahabad	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Baran	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Champan	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Nawadgarh	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Darbhanga	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Monghyr	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Bhagalpur	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Kurua	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Kaib	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
South Patna	3	3	3	2,363	2,363	1,353	3,659	880	63,060	18,639	4	38,32,110	38	1,930	1,930	476	65									
Total of Bihar	638	638	638	10,786	10,786	1,49,776	1,49,547	23,578	1,49,332	92,476	44	38,32,110	2,457	5,094	8,803	4,410	80									

* One maund of paddy is equivalent to 25 seers of rice.

† Exclusive of bags obtained by local manufacture.

Whence imported.	FOOD-GRAINS.												FIBROUS PRODUCTS.		OILSEEDS.		SUGAR.		TOBACCO.		
	RICE AND PADDY.			Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags †	Linseed.	Mustard seed.	Tea, Indian.	Cotton, r.w.	Silk, raw.	Coal and coke.	Indigo.	Refined.	Unrefined.	Unmanufactured.	Manufactured.	
	Rice.	Paddy.	Total (in Rice).																		
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
ORISSA.																					
Cuttack	2,274	27,592	29,866	2,274	1,598	3,872	3,872	44	6,000												
Balasore	53,861	27,592	81,453	70,106	17,569	87,675	87,675														
Total of Orissa	55,135	27,592	82,727	72,380	19,167	91,547	91,547	44	6,000												
CHOTA NAGPUR.																					
Bazaribagh	337		337	337			337		455			11			61,044						
Manbhum	9,030		9,030	9,131	101		9,232		700		63	643			10,43,189						
Singbhum	2,166		2,166	2,166			2,166		385					983							
Total of Chota Nagpur.	11,533		11,533	11,633	101		11,734		1,540		63	654		983	11,14,183						
Grand Total of supplies from the Provinces under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.	7,14,068	1,13,416	7,25,484	11,282	1,74,047	26,392	9,96,674	46,33,246	1,233,773	1,66,525	1,11,325	76,601	4,406	1,698	39,49,293	2,532	5,094	42,317	30,707	2,747	
OTHER PROVINCES.																					
Assam	1		1	2	2,19,310	35,412	2,65,473	4,380	5,395			1,85,943	1,812								
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	2		2				8,749	753	1,205			1,010	33,641								
Punjab	8		8		17,679	35,300	16,170		70			653	1,289	88							
Central Provinces	647		647				647		175		341		407								
Rajputana and Central India.													2,324								
Berar													2,461								
Bombay	7		7		5								18,564								
Madras	12		12		18,194		18,206						486								
Burma	1,89,474	4,151	1,89,023	1,89,023	6,166		1,95,234		5,000				698	5							
Other places	3,448		3,448	7,046	632		7,046		19,803				1,221		8,820						
Grand Total of Imports in November...	9,04,697	1,17,697	9,78,146	2,48,271	2,69,656	54,901	15,51,034	46,38,379	1,269,421	2,13,242	1,64,830	2,14,207	66,549	1,698	39,55,113	29,651	1,40,553	89,454	39,977	4,167	
	7,93,392	1,55,103	8,90,331	1,09,686	3,83,364	59,676	14,34,037	98,15,204	3,076,136	1,67,315	1,40,072	1,89,600	1,04,205	1,938	32,63,896	39,576	35,240	86,975	34,240	5,272	

* One maund of paddy is equivalent to 25 seers of rice.

† Exclusive of bags obtained by local manufacture.

II.

The Sea-borne Trade of Calcutta in these Staples during the month of November 1897 was as follows:—

FROM	Rice.	Paddy.	Total (in rice).	Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food- grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny- bags.	Linseed.	Mustard seed.	Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	SUGAR.		TOBACCO.	
															Refined.	Unrefined.	Unmanu- factured.	Manufac- tured.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
ports,	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
...	19,075	30	19,004	.....	60	346	19,500	.....	2,018,500	.....	591	4,292	.....	255	332	.....	...	.....
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	126,250	.....	.....	22	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.....
...	7,859	.....	7,859	1,200	13,254	.....	22,313	97	677,800	.....	3,094	158	.....	165	271	.....	...	8
...	41,734	11,774	40,002	670	426	.....	50,188	2,431	.....	.....	1,338	15	.....	13	109	.....	...	96
...	2,323	.....	2,323	5,408	15,959	4,241	27,931	45	1,114,800	.....	10	201	452	10	393	180	11,930	234
Indian	1	.....	1	231	3,264	.....	3,405	.....	159,100	.....	.....	4	5	21	2,190	660	1,781	107
...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	.....
Inter-	70,992	11,804	78,369	7,509	32,963	4,587	1,23,428	2,573	4,100,959	.....	5,033	4,632	457	404	3,295	840	13,717	445
ports -	36,406	5	36,409	.....	2,605	.....	39,014	26,60,345	4,980,900	2,11,438	34,043	2,50,960	129	844	.....	.....	...	36
Foreign	2,94,558	584	2,95,323	1,067	17,946	7,901	3,22,237	14,28,236	6,331,150	40,884	50,233	12,740	4,177	800	16	.....	681	201
Foreign	3,31,864	559	3,31,732	1,067	20,551	7,901	3,61,251	40,88,581	11,318,050	2,52,322	84,276	2,63,700	4,306	1,644	16	.....	681	237
1897	4,02,356	12,393	4,10,101	8,576	53,514	12,488	4,84,679	40,91,154	15,419,000	2,52,322	80,309	2,63,332	4,763	2,108	3,311	840	14,398	682
1896	4,01,331	30	4,01,350	2,501	1,06,595	12,084	5,23,430	22,18,078	17,859,454	1,90,200	36,117	2,56,295	21,731	1,184	5,298	2,136	14,634	685

III.

IMPORTS INTO CALCUTTA.

The following statement shows the several routes followed by the Trade in the Principal Staples of Traffic imported into Calcutta during the month of November 1897.

PORT OF	FOOD-GRAINS.					FIBROUS PRODUCTS.		OILSEEDS.		Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	Coal and Coke.	Indigo.	SUGAR.		TOBACCO.	
	Rice.	Paddy.	Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags.	Linseed.	Mustard seed.						Re-fined.	Un-refined.	Unmanu-factured.	Manufac-tured.
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
ports ...	3,69,902	38,276	453	27,658	213	14,23,717	650,581	17,963	20,977	.....	3,471	114	11,963	14	2,062	25,272	4,893	942
mers ...	46,494	1,053	1	2,600	.....	12,54,635	13,159	792	31,250	1,35,943	1,117	239	.....	...	386	.....	428	...
Railway	1,87,134	30,023	2,47,775	1,77,985	50,378	1,88,702	51,940	1,80,936	1,07,021	2,318	39,349	870	39,32,030	20,624	1	9,376	4,174	118
S. Rail-	11,000	.....	.....	18,749	1,404	18,43,857	500,535	7,551	5,572	74,516	213	467	.....	13	82	4,459	10,933	...
... ..	47,785	18,172	42	8	...	2,27,424	22,300	.....	.....	.....	200	...	4,400	...	2,559	3,745	4,223	1,714
... ..	2,42,352	30,043	.....	42,566	2,966	44	39,903	.....	.....	1,430	22,190	5	8,820	...	1,44,493	37,603	326	1,333
1897	9,04,667	1,17,567	2,48,271	2,69,656	54,961	49,38,379	1,269,421	2,13,242	1,64,820	2,14,207	66,549	1,695	39,58,113	20,651	1,49,583	80,454	30,977	4,107
1896	7,93,392	1,55,103	1,00,686	3,83,364	59,676	36,15,204	3,076,136	1,67,315	1,40,072	1,89,600	1,04,205	1,238	32,61,893	39,576	33,240	86,976	34,240	5,272

IV.

EXPORTS FROM CALCUTTA.

The following Statement shows the Values and Quantities of the Principal Staples of Traffic exported Inland from Calcutta by Rail, Road, River (Country-boat and Steamer), and Canal during the month of November 1897:—

Whither exported.	Cotton piece-goods.		Cotton twist.		Salt.	Kerosine oil.	Gunny-bags.	Whither exported.	Cotton piece-goods.		Cotton twist.		Salt.	Kerosine oil.	Gunny-bags.
	European.	Indian.	European.	Indian.					European.	Indian.	European.	Indian.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8								
BENGAL.								ORISSA.							
	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.		Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	
Burdwan ...	3,36,753	3,900	676	1,617	30,849	7,609	98,690	Balasore ...	1,07,400	.....	1,462	5,397	25,168	20,916	
Birbhum ...	1,28,063	651	181	1,251	18,008	2,708	75,145	CHOTA NAGPUR.							
Midnapore ...	3,81,726	.....	1,955	.....	18,017	1,491	11,354	Hazaribagh ...	54,566	1,392	14	238	8,132	.....
Hooghly ...	1,17,948	11,000	243	96	2,911	4,570	26,510	Manbhum ...	1,19,720	791	32	516	18,925	2,720	
24 Parganas ...	1,96,977	4,075	672	.....	10,650	1,05,644	21,805	Singbhum ...	43,096	64	48	36	5,084	.....
Nadia ...	3,48,155	697	430	2,504	39,824	6,457	34,552	Total of Chota Nagpur ...							
Murshidabad ...	1,13,456	1,720	126	158	2,133	647	10,250		2,17,382	2,697	94	790	33,141	3,928	
Jessore ...	53,633	.....	627	.....	13,388	4,588	2,011	Grand Total of supplies into the Provinces under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.							
Khulna ...	53,917	.....	125	.....	9,212	1,059	79		73,72,074	32,664	12,464	19,688	6,88,360	3,08,790	
Rajshahi ...	2,41,088	.....	165	173	17,844	4,643	10,290	OTHER PROVINCES.							
Dinajpur ...	1,04,355	.....	.....	388	10,708	1,504	3,010	Assam ...	9,63,918	200	2,679	5	61,914	19,583	
Jalpaiguri ...	1,15,290	.....	.....	292	9,048	2,669	3,603	North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	24,67,781	67,752	2,387	205	23,508	41,317	
Darjeeling ...	73,612	.....	184	166	4,12	2,310	980	Punjab ...	8,15,702	1,306	437	60	24,923	24,923	
Rangpur ...	3,04,143	.....	73	270	20,078	3,319	8,345	Central Provinces ...	2,34,275	8,044	246	309	13,723	13,723	
Bogra ...	1,84,053	.....	.....	221	3,046	1,011	2,34	Rajputana and Central India ...	63,004	7,952	120	3	.....	861	
Pabna ...	73,421	.....	271	68	44,063	34,923	6,615	Bihar ...	10,614	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cooch Behar ...	51,688	.....	.....	16	56,178	13,298	2,540	Nizam's Territory ...	869	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dacca ...	4,91,244	.....	1,871	.....	22,777	4,275	6,610	Bombay ...	6,14	1,400	7	.....	.....	.....
Mymensingh ...	1,95,501	.....	278	.....	20,935	20,763	8,923	Madras ...	18,250	.....	447	34	.....	220	
Faridpur ...	2,11,240	47	131	668	31,35	6,753	6,09	Pondicherry ...	46	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Backergunge ...	73,705	.....	946	.....	4,175	3,135	8,715	Burma ...	1,68,801	119	1,072	1,100	.....	230	
Tippera ...	1,42,746	.....	972	.....	5,22	1,450	479	Other places ...	21,748	4,323	20	23,133	.....	40	
Noakhali ...	18,954	.....	305	.....	200	4	27,000	Grand Total of Exports in November 1897							
Chittagong ...	60,336	.....	127	5	.....	.....	.....		1,21,46,087	1,23,760	20,822	43,544	7,73,815	4,14,156	
Total of Bengal ...	40,97,029	22,050	10,288	7,945	4,16,262	2,35,113	375,247		1,24,58,695	78,337	19,697	33,653	7,01,307	3,77,182	
BIHAR.								OTHER PROVINCES.							
Patna ...	1,90,245	2,242	264	717	16,68	14,300	69,230	Grand Total of Exports in November 1896							
Gaya ...	1,33,014	93	29	271	13,727	572	36,225								
Shahabad ...	3,97,963	46	53	81	20,720	739	7,175								
Saran ...	2,24,129	.....	101	121	1,738	1,7	8,340								
Champanan ...	3,02,935	372	30	139	15,081	2,088	11,515								
Muzaffarpur ...	2,75,049	233	6	90	15,58	3,025	22,045								
Darbhanga ...	3,32,145	558	.....	174	28,43	4,469	31,650								
Monghyr ...	2,40,540	700	6	320	15,000	5,337	49,760								
Bhagalpur ...	3,32,420	1,285	62	454	22,454	6,080	78,725								
Purnea ...	2,82,003	744	.....	984	14,391	5,309	8,54								
Malda ...	31,788	.....	32	364	8,802	784	1,658								
Sonthal Parganas ...	1,40,037	1,674	138	1,861	17,629	4,652	36,338								
Total of Bihar ...	29,50,263	7,917	620	5,556	2,11,789	49,742	390,258								

V.

The Sea-borne Trade of Calcutta in these Staples during the month of November 1897 was as follows:—

IMPORTED INTO CALCUTTA.	COTTON PIECE-GOODS.		COTTON TWIST.		Salt.	Kerosine oil.	Gunny-bags.
	European.	Indian.	European.	Indian.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
From Foreign Ports—	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	
United Kingdom ...	80,28,535	.....	15,925	.....	4,53,992	.....
Other Foreign ports ...	84,763	.....	767	.....	3,44,965	.....
Total of Foreign Trade ...	90,13,298	.....	16,693	.....	7,98,957	.....
From Indian Ports—	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	
Bombay ...	32,947	2,90,390	135	18,699	53,546	.....
Madras ...	6,653	27,030	.....	58	5,000	.....
Other ports in Madras ...	.....	200	.....	.....	6,229	.....
Burma ...	5,284	.....	.....	.....	17,902	.....
Other Indian ports ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total of Interport Trade ...	44,864	3,27,220	135	19,757	64,768	17,902	
Grand Total of Imports in November 1897	90,58,162	3,27,220	16,828	18,757	8,63,723	4,76,236	
Grand Total of Imports in November 1896	1,05,19,941	4,50,062	12,900	15,405	15,85,517	34,074	

* As per tariff declaration value.

VI.

The following Statement shows the several Routes followed by the Trade in the Principal Staples of Traffic exported from Calcutta during the month of November 1897:—

SPECIFICATION OF ROUTES—	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Rs.
By country boats ...	2,62,910	11,000	752	.....	1,99,399	47,861	60,000
By river steamers ...	24,21,132	200	4,926	7	1,28,167	67,838	2,000
By East Indian Railway ...	75,54,503	1,01,153	4,675	9,921	5,55,707	1,47,727	8,000
By Eastern Bengal State Railway ...	26,60,681	1,483	5,997	4,947	61,444	1,25,011	8,000
By road ...	1,96,789	4,675	563	.....	3,970	7,177	15,000
By sea ...	3,60,132	5,842	3,029	28,639	24,718	20,543	15,000
Grand Total of Exports in November 1897	1,21,46,057	1,23,760	20,822	43,544	7,73,815	4,14,156	17,700
Grand Total of Exports in November 1896	1,21,53,695	78,337	19,597	33,663	7,01,307	3,77,182	19,000

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,
The 15th April 1898.

D. J. MACPHERSON,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Results of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory from 10th to 16th April 1898.

Month.	Date.	Maximum in sun.	Number of hours of bright sunshine.	Mean pressure barometer at 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.				HYGROMETRY.				WIND.		Rain.	WEATHER.
					Mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Mean wet bulb.	Vapour tension.	Dew point.	Humidity.	Prevailing direction.	Miles recorded.		
1898.		°		Inches.	°	°	°	°	°	Inches	°	%			Inches.	
April	10th	148.5	9.2	29.726	84.6	93.6	16.8	76.8	77.4	0.844	74.1	71	SSW	147	Nil	Day chiefly clear, night partially cloudy.
"	11th	145.0	8.4	29.704	84.5	93.3	16.1	77.2	77.3	0.841	74.0	71	SSW, S and SSE	183	"	Partially cloudy, o.
"	12th	130.8	0.8	29.860	78.7	84.1	10.2	73.9	73.7	0.766	71.2	78	ESE and SSW	155	0.16	Chiefly cloudy, o, d, p, t, <
"	13th	150.7	9.0	29.939	81.0	92.4	24.6	67.8	73.8	0.738	70.1	70	SW and calm	34	Nil	Partially cloudy.
"	14th	149.8	8.1	29.922	82.6	92.6	17.4	75.2	76.1	0.814	73.0	73	SSW	71	0.15	Partially cloudy, d, p, t, <, &
"	15th	150.5	10.4	29.850	83.4	92.7	17.9	74.8	76.5	0.820	73.2	72	SSW and S	112	Nil	Partially cloudy, &.
"	16th	149.0	6.1	29.763	79.8	90.4	18.2	72.2	72.5	0.702	68.7	69	SSW and variable	221	0.58	Chiefly cloudy, o, &, p, &

The mean pressure of the seven days Inches. 29.823

The average pressure of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 29.747

The total number of hours of bright sunshine Hours. 52.0

The maximum possible number of hours of sunshine 88.1

The mean temperature of the seven days 82.1

The average temperature of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 85.0

The extreme variation of temperature 25.8

The maximum temperature 93.6

The highest velocity of the wind in one hour Miles, 20

The mean relative humidity % 72

The average relative humidity of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 69

The total fall of rain from 10th to 16th April 1898 Inches. 0.89

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 0.23

The total fall from 1st January to 16th April 1898 1.25

The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office 3.48

The mean pressure, temperature, &c., are deduced from the traces of the Barograph and Thermograph, and from observations made at 6h., 10h., 16h., and 22h.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are obtained from self-registering thermometers. All the thermometers are verified and the readings have been corrected to a standard constructed and verified at the Alipore Observatory. They are exposed under a thatched shed open at the sides, and are suspended four feet above the ground.

The barometer readings are corrected approximately to those of the standard, Newman's No. 86, formerly at the Surveyor-General's Office.

The hygrometric elements are obtained from Tables III, IV, and V of the official tables computed in the Meteorological Office, and based on Regnault's modifications of August's formula.

The directions and the movement of the wind are taken from the trace of a Beckley's anemograph.

The mouth of the rain-gauge is one foot above the ground.

o, overcast; d, drizzling rain; p, passing temporary showers;
t, thunder; <, lightning; &, dew; &, strong wind; g, gloomy.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, GOVT. OF INDIA,
Calcutta, the 18th April 1898.

J. H. GILLILAND,
For Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of India.

Meteorological Report of the Prov

METEOROLOGICAL DIVISION.	DIVISION.	DISTRICT.	Representative stations.	STATION OBSERVATIONS.													
				AIR PRESSURE.						WIND.		TEMPERATURE.					
				Highest, 8 A.M., barometer read- ing.	Lowest, 8 A.M., barometer read- ing.	Mean, 8 A.M., reduced to 32°.	Mean reduced to sea-level and constant gra- vity, Lat. 45°.	Variation from normal mean.	Mean direction at 8 A.M.	Mean velocity in miles daily.	of Highest month.	Lowest of month.	Mean daily maxi- mum tempera- ture.	Mean daily mini- mum tempera- ture.	Mean daily tem- perature.		
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Burdwan ...	Burdwan ...	Burdwan ...	29.963	29.686	29.809	29.853	-.001	S50°W	35	105.8	51.8	96.4	64.0	80.2		
		Raniganj ...	Raniganj ...	29.716	29.455	29.567	29.858	?	N84°W	65	105.4	49.4	95.6	64.0	79.8		
		Birbhum ...	.....													
		Bankura ...	Bankura ...	29.734	29.473	29.587	29.843	?	N87°W	67	105.1	51.0	96.1	65.6	80.3		
		Midnapore ...	Midnapore ...	29.907	29.646	29.765	29.864	-.022	N14°W	77	100.9	55.2	98.5	66.0	81.1		
		Hooghly ...	.....													
	Presidency ...	Howrah ...	.....													
		24-Parganas ...	Saugor Island ...	30.025	29.763	29.880	29.850	-.027	S61°W	282	97.9	54.5	86.5	71.8	79.2		
		Calcutta ...	Calcutta ...	30.040	29.779	29.894	29.861	-.017	S48°W	79	99.9	50.2	92.6	65.7	79.3		
		Nadia ...	Krishnagar ...	30.022	29.734	29.863	29.860	?	S58°W	105	103.2	46.4	93.8	61.2	77.3		
		Murshidabad ...	Berhampore ...	29.983	29.712	29.834	29.851	-.018	S51°W	65	103.0	48.1	98.0	61.7	77.6		
		Jessore ...	Jessore ...	30.024	29.747	29.871	29.851	-.028	S37°W	53	102.5	46.6	93.8	62.8	78.2		
NORTH BENGAL.	Rajshahi ...	Khulna ...	.....													
		Rajshahi ...	Rampur Boalia ...	29.978	29.709	29.827	29.848	-.016	S23°W	67	102.6	48.1	91.1	61.3	76.2		
		Dinajpur ...	Dinajpur ...	29.915	29.631	29.771	29.853	-.015	N83°E	137	100.8	45.5	89.2	59.2	74.3		
		Jalpaiguri ...	Jalpaiguri ...	29.754	29.460	29.609	29.860	-.022	N18°E	58	95.4	47.1	86.0	60.8	73.4		
		Darjeeling ...	Darjeeling ...	23.214	22.873	23.000	—	+0.021	E	176	69.0	26.8	57.7	38.4	48.1		
	Dacca ...	Cooch Behar ...	.....	29.889	29.595	29.735	29.847	?	S61°E	31	94.3	47.4	85.4	61.5	73.3	
		Rangpur ...	Rangpur ...	29.924	29.637	29.774	29.855	-.023	S70°E	69	96.0	47.5	86.7	60.6	73.7		
		Bogra ...	Bogra ...	29.980	29.697	29.831	29.847	?	?	?	101.1	47.2	91.0	61.1	75.9		
		Pabna ...	Sirajganj ...	29.991	29.710	29.837	29.837	-.039	S21°E	50	100.4	46.5	(c) 91.4	60.9	76.2		
		Dacca ...	Narayanganj ...	30.023	29.769	29.880	29.856	-.037	S17°W	107	97.1	53.3	90.6	65.6	78.1		
EAST BENGAL.	Chittagong ...	Mymensingh ...	Mymensingh ...	29.989	29.726	29.840	29.861	-.035	S68°E	?	95.6	46.8	87.8	62.1	76.9		
		Faridpur ...	Faridpur ...	30.008	29.730	29.861	29.856	-.044	S60°W	28	99.8	46.5	91.3	61.4	76.3		
		Backergunge ...	Barisal ...	30.024	29.781	29.895	29.853	-.037	S21°E	58	96.3	51.2	90.6	60.3	75.5		
		Tippera ...	Comilla ...	30.003	29.766	29.879	29.863	?	S27°E	111	96.3	48.1	91.5	64.0	77.8		
		Noakhali ...	Noakhali ...	29.998	29.769	29.872	29.862	?	S7°E	97	92.5	45.4	87.0	63.3	75.2		
	Patna ...	Chittagong ...	Chittagong ...	29.938	29.741	29.838	29.876	-.039	S86°E	145	93.7	51.1	87.2	63.7	75.5		
		South Lushai Hills ...	Lungleh ...														
		Patna ...	Bankipore ...	29.848	29.577	29.711	29.852	-.025	S87°W	80	101.4	46.4	90.3	62.9	76.6		
		Gaya ...	Gaya ...	29.664	29.418	29.528	29.807	-.016	S28°W	125	103.4	59.8	92.8	64.6	78.7		
		Shahabad ...	Dehri ...	29.686	29.428	29.549	29.804	-.020	S47°W	173	103.4	49.1	92.9	65.1	79.1		
BIHAR.	Bhagalpur ...	Buxar ...	Buxar ...	29.793	29.531	29.653	29.854	-.023	S72°W	187	101.0	46.4	91.1	61.3	76.2		
		Arrah ...	Arrah ...	29.832	29.568	29.693	29.841	?	N81°W	123	101.8	47.1	91.9	60.8	75.9		
		Saran ...	Chapra ...	29.802	29.576	29.718	29.854	?	S69°W	91	101.3	46.4	91.1	60.7	75.9		
		Champaran ...	Motihari ...	29.797	29.488	29.652	29.843	?	N56°E	129	99.0	43.9	87.7	57.1	72.4		
		Muzaffarpur ...	Muzaffarpur ...	29.844	29.552	29.702	29.840	—	N45°W	156	98.7	46.8	88.4	59.4	74.9		
	Bhagalpur ...	Darbhanga ...	Darbhanga ...	29.856	29.591	29.721	29.846	-.024	S74°W	90	98.2	48.5	87.9	60.7	74.3		
		Monghyr ...	.....													
		Bhagalpur ...	Bhagalpur ...	29.880	29.590	29.728	29.844	-.015	S49°W	66	102.5	48.7	90.6	61.6	76.1		
		Purnea ...	Purnea ...	29.917	29.629	29.769	29.853	-.013	N45°E	97	100.5	46.8	89.6	59.5	74.6		
		Malda ...	Malda ...	29.963	29.674	29.813	29.839	?	S69°W	50	101.6	45.2	90.5	58.4	74.5		
ORISSA.	Orissa ...	Sonthal Parganae ...	Naya Dumka ...	29.536	29.284	29.402	29.860	-.007	N61°W	32	102.9	50.1	93.0	63.1	78.1		
		Cuttack ...	Cuttack ...	29.970	29.713	29.840	29.864	-.016	S68°W	55	105.4	60.1	98.8	69.7	84.3		
		False Point ...	False Point ...	30.035	29.765	29.899	29.862	-.012	S77°W	171	95.5	57.0	86.1	68.8	77.8		
		Balasore ...	Balasore ...	30.022	29.751	29.870	29.864	-.005	N83°W	91	103.5	55.0	96.1	65.7	80.9		
		Shortt's Island ...	Shortt's Island ...	30.045	29.768	29.894	—	—	S72°W	340	92.0	65.6	86.0	73.1	79.6		
	Chota Nag- pur.	Puri(c) ...	Puri(c) ...	30.026	29.771	29.902	29.865	—	N85°W	244	92.2	62.1	86.7	73.2	80.0		
		Gopalpur ...	Gopalpur ...	30.028	29.772	29.905	29.866	—	N39°W	251	95.8	63.1	87.2	69.8	78.3		
		Hazaribagh ...	Hazaribagh ...	27.980	27.799	27.885	29.867	-.016	N60°W	236	98.8	44.2	89.3	63.7	76.5		
		Lohardaga ...	Ranchi ...	27.881	27.703	27.784	29.879	+0.005	N83°W	148	98.1	46.2	89.8	63.6	76.7		
		Palamanu ...	Daltonganj ...	29.328	29.101	29.200	29.911	—	S32°W	109	103.1	42.0	93.6	57.0	75.4		
OTA NAGPUR.	Chota Nag- pur.	Manbhum ...	.....													
		Singhbhum ...	Chaibassa ...	29.308	29.057	29.153	29.380	?	S81°W	?	106.7	50.5	98.1	64.8	81.4		
		Sibsagar ...	Sibsagar ...	29.738	29.448	29.597	29.900	-.039	N17°E	?	88.8	49.3	81.8	58.5	76.2		
		Goalpara ...	Dhubri ...	29.945	29.644	29.793	29.866	-.016	N60°E	106	97.7	51.0	87.0	62.4	75.9		
ASSAM.	Chota Nag- pur.	Cachar ...	Silchar ...	29.968	29.720	29.839	29.890	-.025	S72°E	83	97.6	47.4	90.3	60.6	75.4		

a Mean of 29 days. | b Mean of 27 days. | c Mean of 30 days. | d Mean of 18 days.

Calcutta for the month of March 1898.

DISTRICT OBSERVATIONS.															DISTRICT.
HUMIDITY.	CLOUD.		Rain-fall.	RAINFALL—											
	Mean cloud amount, 8 A.M.	Variation from normal mean, 8 A.M.		Of month.					Since 16th October 1897.						
				Mean of district.	Normal mean.	Variation from mean.	Number of rainy days.	Normal mean number of rainy days.	Mean of district.	Normal mean.	Variation.	Mean number of rainy days.	Normal mean number of rainy days.		
-12	(e) 0.9	-1.1	0.01	Nil	1.20	-1.20	0.00	1.98	3.92	4.78	-0.86	6.80	6.87	Burdwan.	
-	0.4	-	Nil	0.02	0.96	-0.94	0.00	1.54	3.89	4.27	-0.38	6.50	6.56		
-	0.4	-	0.03	0.01	1.13	-1.12	0.00	1.97	3.22	4.46	-1.24	6.30	6.98	Birbhum.	
-	(a) 0.3	-	Nil	0.08	1.47	-1.39	0.17	2.36	3.78	6.06	-2.28	6.84	7.67	Bankura.	
-			Nil	Nil	1.24	-1.24	0.00	2.28	3.76	5.29	-1.53	6.67	7.91	Midnapore.	
-			Nil	Nil	1.25	-1.25	0.00	2.41	3.82	5.21	-1.39	4.00	8.36	Hooghly.	
-9	(e) 2.0	-2.2	Nil	0.16	1.48	-1.32	0.14	2.30	4.48	6.67	-2.19	5.42	8.68	Howrah.	
-6	(b) 0.7	-1.8	Nil	Nil	1.57	-1.57	0.00	2.36	4.19	6.36	-2.17	4.00	8.36	24-Parganas.	
-	(e) 0.9	-	Nil	0.01	1.70	-1.69	0.00	2.41	5.34	5.81	-0.47	6.00	7.50	Calcutta.	
-8	0.5	-1.9	0.02	0.04	1.06	-1.02	0.22	1.83	3.50	4.55	-1.05	4.44	6.76	Nadia.	
-12	(b) 1.1	-2.0	Nil	Nil	2.02	-2.02	0.00	3.00	4.19	6.78	-2.59	6.00	8.84	Murshidabad.	
-			Nil	Nil	2.01	-2.01	0.00	2.82	2.83	7.01	-4.18	6.33	9.30	Jessore.	
-	0.3	-	0.07	0.04	1.12	-1.08	0.00	1.81	3.76	4.02	-0.26	6.60	6.12	Khulna.	
-	1.0	-	Nil	0.04	0.70	-0.66	0.20	1.25	3.04	3.09	-0.05	6.20	5.18	Rajshahi.	
-	0.4	-	0.04	0.12	1.35	-1.23	0.75	1.90	1.78	4.16	-2.38	6.00	6.31	Dinajpur.	
+11	(i) 3.5	-1.2	0.45	0.32	1.84	-1.52	1.25	3.15	4.52	6.55	-2.03	11.50	9.89	Jalpaiguri.	
-	1.7	-	0.11	0.11	1.64	-1.53	0.75	2.41	2.20	4.55	-2.35	6.25	6.77	Darjeeling.	
-	1.7	-	0.01	0.02	1.34	-1.32	0.00	1.77	3.56	3.98	-0.42	6.40	5.22	Cooch Behar.	
-	(f) 1.0	-	0.13	0.10	1.13	-1.03	0.50	2.05	4.65	4.73	-0.08	7.50	6.54	Rangpur.	
-	1.9	-	0.12	0.12	1.40	-1.37	0.50	2.58	4.64	5.32	-0.68	7.00	8.40	Bogra.	
0	(d) 3.2	-0.1	Nil	0.28	2.09	-2.41	0.60	3.68	4.47	7.63	-3.16	5.80	10.46	Pabna.	
-	(e) 2.6	-	0.40	0.25	1.97	-1.72	0.50	3.00	4.35	5.83	-1.48	6.50	8.28	Dacca.	
-	(i) 0.3	-	0.01	Nil	2.46	-2.46	0.00	3.63	4.03	7.16	-3.13	5.33	9.79	Mymensingh.	
-	(b) 2.4	-	Nil	Nil	2.13	-2.13	0.00	3.04	3.27	7.78	-4.51	6.50	9.83	Faridpur.	
-	(a) 3.4	-	0.18	0.20	3.10	-2.90	0.56	3.70	3.26	7.97	-4.71	10.52	10.52	Backergunge.	
-	3.0	-	Nil	0.19	3.40	-3.21	0.25	3.78	3.31	10.21	-6.90	4.75	10.82	Tippera.	
-5	(a) 1.8	-2.4	2.13	0.69	2.35	-1.66	0.80	2.56	9.12	9.04	+0.08	8.00	9.81	Noakhali.	
-3	0.2	-1.9	0.08	0.07	3.55	-3.48	0.00	4.04	9.95	9.83	+0.12	6.00	12.83	Chittagong.	
-1	0.7	-1.4	0.64	0.15	0.50	-0.35	0.45	0.95	4.62	3.08	+1.54	6.83	5.07	South Lushai Hills.	
-	0.1	-	0.03						5.42	2.90	+2.52	6.23	5.18	Patna.	
-	0.3	-	Nil	0.04	0.41	-0.37	0.00	0.93	3.69	3.24	+0.45	4.66	5.17	Gaya.	
-	0	-	0.03											Shahatad.	
-	0.1	-	0.03	0.04	0.30	-0.26	0.00	0.81	2.89	2.89	0	6.00	4.82	Sarar.	
-	0.1	-	0.02	0.03	0.45	-0.42	0.25	0.91	2.30	2.84	-0.54	6.25	4.76	Champanan.	
-	0	-	0.05	0.05	0.42	-0.37	0.33	0.82		2.68			4.40	Muzaffarpur.	
+8	0.3	-0.9	0.19		0.40			0.77		2.40			4.22	Darbhanga.	
-				0.26	0.43	-0.17	0.80	0.66	6.51	2.91	+3.60	8.80	4.35	Monghyr.	
-	0.6	-	0.68	0.27	0.46	-0.19	0.67	0.91	4.86	2.82	+2.04	8.68	4.72	Bhagalpur.	
+5	1.3	-0.2	0.28	0.25	0.59	-0.34	0.80	0.99	2.93	2.77	+0.16	5.46	4.27	Purnea.	
-	0.6	-	0.07	0.04	0.63	-0.59	0.60	1.19	5.39	3.33	+2.06	6.75	4.94	Malda.	
-	0.9	-	0.20	0.07	0.72	-0.65	0.29	1.30	5.87	3.38	+2.49	7.15	5.34	Sonthal Parganas.	
+4	(h) 1.0	-0.9	Nil	Nil	1.20	-1.20	0.00	2.07	4.52	7.48	-2.96	7.51	9.13	Cuttack.	
-2	(g) 1.9	-1.2	Nil												
-	0.1	-	Nil	Nil	1.46	-1.46	0.00	2.40	7.38	6.39	+0.99	7.14	9.71	Balasore.	
-	0	-	Nil	Nil	0.87	-0.87	0.00	1.59	7.49	9.06	-1.57	9.60	9.51	Shortt's Island.	
-	0	-	Nil												
-9	(e) 0.7	-0.9	0.18	0.06	0.83	-0.77	0.33	1.65	5.49	4.00	+1.49	8.00	6.50	Puri.	
-	0.7	-	Nil	0.01	1.15	-1.14	0.00	2.27	4.30	4.14	+0.16	7.00	7.32	Hazaribagh.	
-	0.3	-	0.02	0.02	0.60	-0.58	0.00	1.43	6.80	3.54	+3.26	6.25	6.21	Lohardaga.	
-					1.08			1.02		3.92			7.06	Palamu.	
-	0.2	-	Nil	Nil	1.13	-1.13	0.00	2.13	2.96	4.65	-1.69	5.50	7.61	Manbhum.	
+2	4.4	-1.6	0.42											Singbhum.	
-2	0.8	-1.9	Nil											Sibsagar.	
-13	2.0	-2.4	1.02											Goalpara.	
														Cachar.	

an of 14 days. | f Mean of 17 days. | g Mean of 20 days. | h Mean of 24 days. | i Mean of 28 days.

Mean of 14 days. | f Mean of 17 days. | g Mean of 20 days. | h Mean of 24 days. | i Mean of 28 days.

Table of Rainfall recorded at station

Meteorological Division.	Division.	District.	Station.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Burdwan.	Burdwan	Kalna	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Burdwan	Katwa	...	...	...	0'01	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Burdwan	Raniganj	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Burdwan	Mankur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Birbhum	Suri	...	0'02	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Birbhum	Hetampur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Birbhum	Rampur Hat	...	...	0'05	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Birbhum	Bolpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Birbhum	Murari	...	...	...	0'08	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Birbhum	Labpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Bankura.	Bankura	Bankura	...	...	...	0'03	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Bankura	Vishnupur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Bankura	Maliara	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Bankura	Khatra	...	...	...	0'05	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Bankura	Indas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Bankura	Kotalpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Bankura	Onda	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Bankura	Gangajalghati	...	...	...	0'06	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Bankura	Raipur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Bankura	Sonamukhi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Midnapore.	Midnapore	Contai	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Midnapore	Tamluk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Midnapore	Ghatal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Midnapore	Kukrahaty	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Midnapore	Garhbeta	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Midnapore	Panskura	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Midnapore	Dantoon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Midnapore	Serampore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Midnapore	Hooghly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Midnapore	Jahanabad	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Howrah.	Howrah	Mohesreka	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Howrah	Ulubaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Howrah	Saugor Island	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Howrah	Diamond Harbour.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Howrah	Canning Town	1'03	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Howrah	Alipore (Observatory).	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Howrah	Barrackpore...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Howrah	Dum-Dum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Howrah	Barasat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Howrah	Basirhat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Nadia.	Nadia	Ranaghat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Nadia	Krishnagar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Nadia	Chudanga	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Nadia	Meherpur	...	...	...	0'03	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Nadia	Kushtia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Nadia	Kandi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Nadia	Berhampore...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Nadia	Lalbagh	...	...	...	0'02	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Nadia	Asinganj	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Nadia	Jangipur	...	...	...	0'16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Jessore.	Jessore	Lalgola	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jessore	Akriganj	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jessore	Patkabari	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jessore	Dumkal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jessore	Narail	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jessore	Jessore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jessore	Jhenidah	...	...	...	0'01	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jessore	Mangura	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jessore	Bangson	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jessore	Satkhera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Khulna.	Khulna	Bagerhat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Khulna	Khulna	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Khulna	Katiganj	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Khulna	Nakipur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Khulna	Dumuria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Khulna	Rampal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Khulna	Kalaroa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Khulna	Patgachha	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Khulna	Boalia	...	...	...	0'02	0'05	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Khulna	Nator	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Rajshahi.	Rajshahi	Naugaoon	...	...	...	0'07	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rajshahi	Lalpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rajshahi	Manda	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rajshahi	Mahadebpur	...	...	...	0'04	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rajshahi	Churaman	0'04	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rajshahi	Raiganj	...	...	...	0'15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rajshahi	Dinajpur	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rajshahi	Balcoorhat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rajshahi	Thakurgaon...	...	0'08	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rajshahi	Setabganj	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Jalpaiguri.	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	...	...	...	0'07	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jalpaiguri	Alipore Duar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jalpaiguri	Fallacotta	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jalpaiguri	Debiganj	...	...	...	0'11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jalpaiguri	Bhagatpur	...	...	...	0'19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jalpaiguri	(Nagrakatta).	...	...	...	0'04	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jalpaiguri	Buxa	...	...	...	0'10	...	0'01	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jalpaiguri	Siliguri	...	...	...	0'08	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jalpaiguri	Darjeeling	...	...	...	0'05	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Jalpaiguri	Kalimpong	...	...	...	0'16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Mungpoo.	Mungpoo	Kurseong	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Mungpoo	Pedong	...	...	...	0'08	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Mungpoo	Yatung	...	...	...	0'05	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Mungpoo	Dinbatta	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Mungpoo	Cooch Behar...	...	...	...	0'10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Mungpoo	Mickliganj	...	...	...	0'11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Mungpoo	Mathabhanga	...	...	...	0'06	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Mungpoo	Fulbari	...	...	...	0'08	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Mungpoo	Bhawaniganj	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Mungpoo	(Gaibanda).	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SOUTH-WEST BENGAL.	Rangpur.	Rangpur	Rangpur	...	...	...	0'01	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rangpur	Peeraganj	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rangpur	Kuriganon	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Rangpur	Gobindganj																	

Engal in March 1898.

[illegible]

Table of Rainfall recorded at Sta

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Bengal in March 1898—continued.

	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Number of rainy days.	Average number of rainy days.	Total rainfall for the month.	Average rainfall for the month.	Heaviest rainfall during the month.	Total rainfall from 16th October 1897 to 31st March 1898.	Average rainfall from 16th October to 31st March 1898.	Station.	District.	Division.	Meteorological Division.
...	Nil	4.43	Nil	3.42	Nil	2.73	8.88	Munshiganj.	Dacca.	Dacca.	EAST BENGAL.
...	Nil	3.69	0.10	2.98	0.10	5.52	7.34	Dacca	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.50	Nil	2.67	Nil	3.84	8.39	Narainganj.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.00	0.02	1.91	0.02	5.61	6.51	Manikganj.	Dacca.		
...	2	3.80	1.30	2.46	0.30	4.68	7.02	Jaydebpur.	Dacca.		
...	1	4.52	1.16	2.58	1.16	3.38	6.05	Kishoreganj.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	2.28	0.01	1.49	0.01	3.83	5.52	Atia (Tangail).	Dacca.		
...	1	3.54	0.40	2.02	0.28	3.09	6.36	Mymensingh.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	2.36	Nil	1.35	Nil	4.96	5.46	Mymensingh.	Dacca.		
...	2	3.77	0.29	2.86	0.15	8.01	7.70	Jamalpur.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	2.20	0.09	1.58	0.09	2.10	5.27	Subarnakhal.	Dacca.	Chittagong.	EAST BENGAL.
...	Nil	3.30	Nil	2.58	Nil	2.15	6.95	Durgapur.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	2.00	0.08	1.29	0.08	7.31	3.80	Sherepur Town.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.96	Nil	2.63	Nil	4.51	7.13	Madaripur.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.73	0.01	2.60	0.01	4.88	7.55	Faridpur.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.21	Nil	2.16	Nil	2.74	6.79	Goaindo.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	2.78	Nil	1.80	Nil	3.87	7.80	Patuakhali	Dacca.		
...	Nil	2.64	Nil	1.49	Nil	2.40	7.25	Pirojpur.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.27	Nil	2.52	Nil	3.68	8.48	Barisal.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.20	Nil	2.62	Nil	3.39	7.99	Gournadi.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.74	Nil	2.45	Nil	2.60	7.78	Bhois.	Dacca.	Chittagong.	EAST BENGAL.
...	Nil	2.60	Nil	1.89	Nil	2.22	?	Doulatkhan.	Dacca.		
...	1	4.81	0.40	4.07	0.40	6.41	9.65	Bauphal.	Dacca.		
...	1	4.22	0.18	3.16	0.18	2.23	8.27	Agartala.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.76	Nil	3.13	Nil	2.88	8.35	Comilla.	Dacca.		
...	1	4.28	0.86	4.04	0.82	5.48	9.14	Chandpur.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.50	Nil	2.33	Nil	2.03	7.93	Brahmanbaria.	Dacca.		
...	1	4.60	0.12	3.47	0.10	6.59	7.85	Ramchandrapur.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	2.40	Nil	2.04	Nil	1.38	5.76	Nasirnagar.	Dacca.		
...	1	2.90	0.22	3.11	0.20	1.15	7.57	Daudkandi.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	2.80	Nil	2.54	Nil	1.15	7.14	Kasba.	Dacca.	Chittagong.	EAST BENGAL.
...	Nil	3.46	Nil	3.40	Nil	3.08	10.38	Lakshmi.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	4.84	0.01	3.84	0.01	2.61	11.16	Noakhali.	Dacca.		
...	1	3.20	0.75	2.83	0.75	6.35	10.37	Fenny.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	3.60	Nil	3.53	Nil	1.19	8.94	Harishpur.	Dacca.		
...	1	2.04	Nil	1.66	Nil	9.74	8.63	Ramganj.	Dacca.		
...	1	2.92	2.67	2.52	2.67	13.10	8.32	Cox's Bazar.	Dacca.		
...	1	2.30	0.36	2.01	0.36	2.85	10.58	Chittagong.	Dacca.		
...	1	1.80	0.25	1.94	0.25	11.25	7.63	Kutubdia.	Dacca.		
...	1	3.75	0.17	3.02	0.17	8.68	10.05	Satkhya.	Dacca.		
...	1	?	0.65	?	0.65	8.30	?	Kodala.	Dacca.	Patna.	EAST BENGAL.
...	1	?	0.43	?	0.43	3.54	?	Fenosa.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	4.04	0.07	3.55	0.07	9.95	9.83	Mirsarai.	Dacca.		
...	1	?	0.74	?	0.74	14.08	?	Rangamati.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	?	?	?	?	?	Bandarban.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.81	0.08	0.38	0.08	5.97	3.05	Demagiri.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.76	0.05	0.37	0.05	5.97	3.05	Patna.	Dacca.		
...	1	0.84	0.18	0.37	0.18	3.44	3.02	Dinapore.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	1.00	0.02	0.36	0.02	6.42	3.07	Bihar.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.78	Nil	0.44	Nil	4.27	3.20	Bikram.	Dacca.		
...	1	1.90	0.10	0.59	0.10	4.30	3.27	Hilga.	Dacca.	Patna.	EAST BENGAL.
...	Nil	1.08	0.03	0.43	0.03	6.00	2.65	Aurangabad.	Dacca.		
...	1	1.07	0.64	0.43	0.64	6.11	3.17	Gaya.	Dacca.		
...	1	1.00	0.33	0.59	0.33	5.49	2.90	Nawada.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.86	Nil	0.37	Nil	5.87	2.73	Jahanabad.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	1.10	Nil	0.47	Nil	4.11	3.40	Arwal.	Dacca.		
...	1	0.90	0.21	0.67	0.21	4.80	2.34	Daudnagar.	Dacca.		
...	1	1.10	0.11	0.84	0.11	5.97	3.08	Sherkhat.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	1.00	0.04	0.62	0.04	4.99	3.59	Rajauli.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	1.00	Nil	0.32	Nil	5.53	2.20	Pakri Barawan.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	1.17	0.03	0.69	0.03	2.66	3.33	Buxar.	Dacca.	Patna.	EAST BENGAL.
...	Nil	1.08	0.12	0.52	0.07	5.14	3.74	Dehri.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.92	0.03	0.36	0.03	3.59	3.05	Bhabhua.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.88	0.03	0.40	0.03	4.49	3.04	Sasaram.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.50	Nil	0.14	Nil	2.38	2.82	Arrah.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	1.47	?	Mohanea.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	3.74	?	Khiri.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	0.03	?	0.03	2.41	?	Ageon.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	0.05	?	0.05	2.74	?	Ramagar.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	2.90	?	Koath.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	0.02	?	0.02	4.29	?	Sikrout.	Dacca.	Patna.	EAST BENGAL.
...	Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	3.49	?	Bassawan.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	?	?	Monaharpur.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	0.03	?	0.02	?	?	Chausa.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.76	0.08	0.25	0.08	3.51	2.45	Gopalganj.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.88	0.08	0.27	Nil	3.19	?	Sivan.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	1.64	?	Ekma.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.80	0.03	0.37	0.03	2.62	3.02	Chapra.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	2.30	?	Seereepur.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	3.83	?	Annour.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	1.90	?	Basantpur.	Dacca.	Patna.	EAST BENGAL.
...	Nil	?	0.06	?	0.06	1.92	?	Darowlee.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	?	0.04	?	0.04	2.73	?	Bhoreh.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.78	0.02	0.41	0.02	2.72	2.78	Motihari.	Dacca.		
...	Nil	0.95	Nil	0.40	Nil	1.81	2.50	Bettiah.	Dacca.	Patna.	EAST BENGAL.
...	1	1.00	0.11	0.57	0.11	2.06	3.16	Bagaha.	Dacca.		
...	...																			

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Rajal in March 1898—concluded.

22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Number of rainy days.	Average number of rainy days.	Total rainfall for the month.	Average rainfall for the month.	Heaviest rainfall during the month.	Total rainfall from 10th October 1897 to 31st March 1898.	Average rainfall from 10th October to 31st March.	Station.	District.	Division.	Meteorological Division.
										Nil	0.92	Nil	0.42	Nil	2.87	2.93	Madhipura Bongaon. (Sylabad.)	Bhagalpur.	Bihar—concluded.	Bhagalpur—concluded.
										Nil	0.95	0.03	0.43	0.02	4.38	2.51	Supaul.			
										1	0.90	0.11	0.49	0.11	5.24	2.90	Protaganj.			
										1	0.76	0.68	0.40	0.68	5.94	2.69	Bhagalpur.			
										1	1.04	0.20	0.51	0.20	6.22	3.22	Banka.			
										1	0.90	0.58	0.52	0.58	4.50	2.68	Colgong.			
										1	?	?	?	0.10	5.59	?	Bansil.			
										1	1.21	0.10	0.70	0.10	2.46	3.09	Kishanganj ...	Purnea.		
										Nil	1.12	0.05	0.68	0.05	3.06	2.84	Araria.			
										1	0.80	0.28	0.40	0.28	3.02	3.15	Purnea.			
										1	0.70	0.30	0.54	0.30	4.96	2.44	Gondwara (Korah).			
										1	?	0.30	?	0.30	2.16	?	Barsoe.			
										1	?	0.23	?	0.23	2.05	?	Forbesganj.			
										1	1.10	0.50	0.70	0.60	1.17	2.39	Kalinganj.			
										Nil	1.19	0.07	0.80	0.07	6.17	3.95	Malda	Malda.		
										Nil	1.05	Nil	0.52	Nil	7.47	2.68	Chanchal.			
										Nil	1.00	Nil	0.53	Nil	1.90	2.29	Gajol.			
										Nil	1.50	0.07	0.67	0.07	5.96	4.33	Sibganj.			
										Nil	0.72	0.04	0.39	0.04	2.76	2.25	Rajmahal	Sonbhat Par-		
										Nil	1.17	Nil	0.53	Nil	6.10	3.03	Godda.	kana.		
										Nil	1.42	0.03	0.64	0.03	6.14	3.28	Pakour.			
										1	1.54	0.20	0.85	0.20	3.47	4.16	Naya Dumka.			
										1	1.46	0.14	0.71	0.14	10.51	3.76	Deoghur.			
										Nil	1.50	0.05	0.95	0.05	6.73	3.81	Jamtara.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	2.70	?	Belbadda.			
										Nil	1.30	Nil	0.94	Nil	5.27	3.29	Nanihat.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	4.00	?	Assenboni.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	3.47	?	Kotikund.			
										1	?	0.16	?	0.16	5.92	?	Madhupur.			
										1	?	0.11	?	0.11	7.64	?	Sarwan.			
										Nil	?	0.08	?	0.08	7.43	?	Sarath.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	6.94	?	Barkope.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	4.58	?	Bhagya.			
										1	?	0.15	?	0.15	5.78	?	Mohespore.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	4.64	?	Barharwa.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	3.50	?	Sahibganj.			
										Nil	1.44	Nil	1.07	Nil	3.65	7.43	Jagatsingpur.	Uttack.		
										Nil	2.54	Nil	1.53	Nil	4.93	7.28	Banki.			
										Nil	1.96	Nil	1.41	Nil	4.38	7.30	Cuttack.			
										Nil	1.54	Nil	0.93	Nil	8.06	10.54	Faise Point.			
										Nil	1.88	Nil	0.92	Nil	6.30	7.55	Kendrapara.			
										Nil	2.32	Nil	1.23	Nil	4.61	6.63	Jajpur.			
										Nil	2.60	Nil	1.53	Nil	4.00	6.71	Dharmasala.			
										Nil	2.30	Nil	1.00	Nil	3.44	6.42	Salipore.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	0.71	?	Pal Lahara.			
										Nil	2.36	Nil	1.73	Nil	5.25	6.55	Akhyapada ...	Balasore.		
										Nil	1.91	Nil	1.14	Nil	2.75	7.49	Chandbali.			
										Nil	2.28	Nil	1.52	Nil	8.31	6.92	Bhadrak.			
										Nil	2.68	Nil	1.67	Nil	14.19	6.10	Soro.			
										Nil	2.96	Nil	1.45	Nil	9.49	7.33	Balasore.			
										Nil	2.05	Nil	1.22	Nil	5.64	4.90	Jellapore.			
										Nil	2.53	Nil	1.49	Nil	6.06	5.51	Baripada.			
										Nil	1.00	Nil	0.61	Nil	9.51	10.58	Puri	Puri.		
										Nil	2.00	Nil	1.18	Nil	6.52	7.52	Khurda.			
										Nil	2.31	Nil	1.13	Nil	10.80	9.40	Banpur.			
										Nil	1.33	Nil	0.62	Nil	5.44	10.80	Gop.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	9.32	?	Satpara.			
										Nil	1.30	Nil	0.82	Nil	5.15	7.05	Pipli.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	11.68	?	Nayagarh.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	6.25	?	Ranpur.			
										1	1.39	0.12	0.74	0.12	5.37	3.66	Pachamba (Giridih).	Hazaribagh.		
										1	1.88	0.18	0.75	0.16	4.31	3.90	Hazaribagh.			
										Nil	1.80	0.04	0.83	0.04	10.61	3.79	Barhi.			
										Nil	2.10	0.04	0.82	0.04	4.48	4.18	Chatra.			
										Nil	1.50	Nil	1.17	Nil	5.40	3.90	Karakdeha.			
										Nil	1.20	Nil	0.65	Nil	2.85	4.55	Ramgar.			
										Nil	2.58	0.02	1.02	0.02	4.78	4.80	Lohardaga	Lohardaga.		
										Nil	2.80	Nil	1.38	Nil	3.27	4.91	Ranchi.			
										Nil	1.44	Nil	1.05	Nil	4.83	2.72	Silli.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	?	?	Palikot.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	?	?	Tamar.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	2.50	?	Chainpur.			
										Nil	1.43	Nil	0.89	Nil	5.01	5.01	Sirguma.			
										Nil	3.15	Nil	1.79	Nil	4.59	6.85	Jashpur.			
										Nil	2.08	Nil	1.04	Nil	5.75	4.57	Gangpur.			
										Nil	1.80	0.02	0.70	0.01	6.17	3.43	Palamau (Daltonganj).	Palamau.		
										Nil	1.50	Nil	0.59	Nil	5.76	3.88	Balunath.			
										Nil	1.20	0.07	0.35	0.05	9.59	3.61	Husainabad.			
										Nil	1.20	Nil	0.74	Nil	6.10	3.78	Garhwa.			
										1	2.32	0.15	1.17	0.15	4.25	4.32	Purulia	Manbhum.		
										Nil	1.62	0.05	0.89	0.05	4.31	4.04	Gobindpur.			
										Nil	1.70	Nil	0.89	Nil	1.65	3.47	Raghunathpur.			
										Nil	2.10	Nil	1.05	Nil	4.03	4.03	Barabhum.			
										Nil	1.90	0.01	1.67	0.01	5.60	4.05	Jhalhda.			
										Nil	1.90	Nil	0.90	Nil	2.49	3.59	Chas.			
										Nil	?	0.05	?	0.05	3.28	?	Pandra.			
										Nil	2.42	Nil	1.27	Nil	1.99	4.77	Chaibasa	Singbhum.		
										Nil	1.20	Nil	0.58	Nil	2.49	3.96	Chakradharpur.			
										Nil	2.50	Nil	1.28	Nil	3.35	5.21	Ghatsila.			
										Nil	2.40	Nil	1.41	Nil	4.01	4.64	Baharagura.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	0.60	?	Gaikura.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	3.53	?	Kalikapur.			
										Nil	?	Nil	?	Nil	0.85	?	Monahorpur.			
										?	1.36	?	0.59	?	4.17	?	Keonjhar	Orissa Tributary Mahal.		
										Nil	2.87	Nil	1.34	Nil	3.13	4.92	Anandpur.			
										Nil	2.34	Nil	0.90	Nil	5.04	5.04	Talchar.			
										Nil	2.80	Nil	1.38	Nil	2.91	5.94	Narsingpur.			
										Nil	2.80	Nil	1.28	Nil	2.96	5.94	Angul.			

**SUMMARY OF THE METEOROLOGICAL AND RAINFALL OBSERVATIONS
TAKEN IN BENGAL, AND OF THE METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS
TAKEN IN ASSAM, FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 1898.**

WEATHER during March was in its general features more abnormal than usual, and the changes were at times so irregular that it is difficult, taking account of the limited space over which the land observations in the accompanying tables extend, to give a connected account of the disturbances which occurred during the month.

The chief peculiarities in the weather, mainly due to the line of advance of the shallow depressions, were—

- (1) an almost entire absence of rainfall;
- (2) the quick fall of temperature which was more noticeable in night than in day readings;
- (3) the relatively low pressure over Burma, which followed the passage of the depressions and caused dry north-westerly winds over Bengal instead of the southerly winds more usual at that season of the year.

Two periods of disturbed weather occurred, one in the first week and the second about the beginning of the third week. The depressions were both very shallow, so much so that it was difficult to recognise their approach; but they were followed by a rapid rise of pressure which had probably a good deal to do with the subsequent low pressure over Burma, as the rise stopped short over Bengal. The wave of rising pressure in the first case moved over Bengal from the west, while in the second it began in North Bengal and appeared to extend south-westward, but ultimately with the same result on the general distribution. In each case readings became highest in Bihar and lowest in the south of Burma, consequently, with a reversal of the gradient.

Fairly general light showers fell in Bihar and North Bengal during the passage of the first depression, but with the second practically the only rainfall was reported from Chittagong. Altogether, as may be seen from the rainfall table at the end, the various divisions of the province received only a small fraction of the normal amount for March. In East Bengal, on an average, it was .2 inch instead of 2.59 inches, in Bihar .11 inch, and in South-West Bengal, Orissa and Chota Nagpur the amount was barely measurable, whereas in ordinary years the south-western districts receive about 1 inch.

Owing to the absence of cloud, day temperatures were not so low as is usual during disturbed weather; but as north-westerly winds became established and continued for some days, the nights were much cooler than usual. The difference from the normal for the month in day temperatures varied from excess of 4° in South-West Bengal to a small defect in the north of the province, while mean minimum temperature was below the normal everywhere, by amounts varying from nearly 6° in East Bengal to 1° in the west of Bihar. Owing to this excess during the day and the defect at night, the average difference from the normal for the whole day is not large, rarely more than 1°.

At the beginning of the month there were signs of a depression over the northern districts, but not well marked. Pressure, which during the previous day had fallen briskly, was very uniform and above the normal by small amounts. The best indication of the depression was the cyclonic circulation of winds. A further fall occurred before the morning of the 2nd, largest in the west of Bihar, after which the area of lowest pressure was over the west of the province, but still with a slight gradient. In Bihar winds had changed from west to east, but the rapid recovery of pressure set in almost immediately, and they soon became west again. These variations in the wind circulation were accompanied by fairly general local storms over Bihar with light rain, most of them occurring between the morning of the 2nd and the morning of the 3rd.

The changes of pressure on the 3rd varied from a fall of .05 inch in East Bengal, where the depression then was, to a rise of .15 inch in the extreme west of Bihar, and a steep gradient was then shown over the western districts. The wave advancing south-eastward, was over South-East Bengal in its maximum phase on the 4th, and was to a large extent checked there. The fall of temperature which accompanied the rise was unusually rapid. On the 3rd there was excess over the whole province, except the west of Bihar, and it was as much as 5° in North Bengal. On the 4th defect varied from 15° in part of Bihar and Chota Nagpur to 3° in South-East Bengal, and on the 5th a uniform defect of about 12° prevailed.

Settled weather followed with unusually dry cool westerly winds owing to the pressure distribution caused by the depression, that is, with highest pressure in the west of Bihar and lowest in the south of Burma, and a gradient the reverse of what is usual in March. This abnormal arrangement of pressure continued till the 10th, with the usual, though rather large, oscillations, the most noticeable of which occurred on the 8th and 9th, when there was first a fall of about .1 inch in the north of the province and then a rise of similar amount. The general weather, however, remained the same till the 11th, when, after a steady moderate fall of pressure during the previous days, readings were lowest in North Bengal, and southerly winds began to replace the hitherto regular westerly current.

With the southerly winds temperature rose, but differed from the normal by only small amounts till the 15th, when there was excess in all districts and in places as much as 5°.

From the 15th to the 22nd weather was of a fairly uniform character. Pressure remained low over Bengal, and southerly winds continued from day to day in the north of the Bay. Inland they were more westerly, with a cloudless sky and temperature considerably above the normal. The high temperature did not extend over the Bay where, as shown by the coast stations, there was usually a small defect. As in the early part of the month, considerable oscillations of pressure obtained, but it was not still the 22nd that any decided change occurred. Pressure then rose rapidly in the north-east of Bengal, and on the following day over the whole province.

With the rise of pressure there was a general fall of temperature owing to the northerly winds which set in. On the 22nd the difference from the normal varied from defect of 8° in the west of Bihar to excess of 2° at the more southern stations, and on the 23rd a uniform defect of about 7° prevailed over a great part of the province.

At that time the pressure distribution was somewhat similar to what had followed the previous disturbance, with the difference that the area of highest pressure lay along the Himalayas, and the low pressure was not confined to the south of Burma, but was general over the south of the Bay. Excess in pressure in North Bengal and Bihar was about $\cdot 14$ inch. The unusual arrangement was, on this occasion, of shorter duration. A rapid fall of pressure set in over Bengal on the 25th, the southerly winds were restored at the head of the Bay and temperature was rising rapidly.

Between the 26th and the end of the month ordinary weather was general. The pressure distribution became practically normal, and temperature rose over the province, but remained low over the Bay, as had been the case during the third week.

Pressure.—Oscillations were larger than usual during the month, and at times the variation from the normal was considerable. Though two depressions passed across the province, the preliminary fall of pressure was only of moderate amount and somewhat prolonged. The recovery, on the other hand, was quick. In each case an abnormal distribution followed the passage of the disturbances, as stated above, with high pressure in the north-west of the province and the lowest in the south of Burma and the south-east of the Bay. In the early part of the month the arrangement continued for a considerable time, but in the latter half of the month it was for about two days only. At other times pressure was lowest in the north of the province and highest over the Bay with southerly winds and high temperature.

Temperature.—Was low in the first and third weeks and high at other times. During the periods of cool weather the depression of temperature was greater at night than during the day, probably owing to the cloudless skies while the disturbances were crossing the province. Maximum temperature was high, and minimum temperature low, in some of the southern districts by as much as 6° . The mean temperature, however, though lower than usual, generally differed by only small amounts from the normal. On an average for the larger divisions there was excess in Assam and Chota Nagpur and defect elsewhere, of about 1° , except in North Bengal, where mean temperature was very nearly normal.

Rainfall.—Was to a large extent absent in the southern parts, and only a few light and rather scattered showers fell in North Bengal and Bihar at the beginning of the month. East Bengal received, on an average, $\cdot 2$ inch, Bihar $\cdot 11$ inch and the other divisions less than $\cdot 1$ inch. The normal fall for March varies from half an inch in Bihar to $2\cdot 6$ inches in East Bengal. The details of the rainfall are given in the accompanying table.

The following table gives the summary of the temperature and rainfall data of each of the seven meteorological divisions of the Province for the month of March 1898:—

METEOROLOGICAL DIVISIONS.	TEMPERATURE.							RAINFALL.						
	Highest observed during month.	Lowest observed during month.	Averages for month.			Average mean of month above or below normal mean of month.	Of month.			Rainy days.			Since 16th October 1897.	
			Of highest of each day.	Of lowest of each day.	Of mean for each day.		Average.	Normal average.	Variation.	Average number in month.	Normal average number in month.	Variation.	Average.	Normal average.
South-West Bengal	106.9	46.4	94.0	64.8	79.4	-1.0	0.03	1.37	-1.34	0.05	2.20	-2.15	3.88	5.44
North Bengal	102.6	45.5	88.7	60.8	74.7	-0.3	0.07	1.21	-1.14	0.34	1.89	-1.55	3.28	4.12
East "	99.8	45.4	89.4	63.8	76.6	-0.7	0.20	2.59	-2.39	0.41	3.33	-2.92	4.81	7.83
Bihar	103.4	43.9	90.9	61.1	75.9	-0.7	0.11	0.48	-0.37	0.37	0.93	-0.56	4.37	2.94
Orissa	105.4	55.0	91.0	69.3	80.2	-0.8	Nil	1.21	-1.21	0.00	2.06	-2.06	6.47	7.50
Chota Nagpur	106.7*	44.2*	92.4*	64.0*	78.2*	+0.9*	0.03	0.95	-0.92	0.13	1.85	-1.72	4.85	4.03
Assam	97.7	47.4	86.6	65.5	73.5	+0.4								

* Daltonganj not included.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,
The 12th April 1898.

C. LITTLE,
Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

Results of the Barometrical and Thermometrical Observations taken at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, from 10th to 16th April 1898.

MONTH.	Date.	Pressure at 10 A.M. corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.						HYGROMETRY.			Rainfall, past 24 hours.
			Daily mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Dry bulb at 10 A.M.	Wet bulb at 10 A.M.	Vapour tension at 10 A.M.	Dew point at 10 A.M.	Humidity at 10 A.M.	
1898.		Inches.	°	°		°	°	°	Inches.	°	%	Inches.
April	10th	29.810	86.8	96.2	18.9	77.3	89.6	79.7	.881	75.4	63	Nil.
"	11th	.762	86.4	95.0	17.2	77.8	87.6	79.5	.900	76.0	69	"
"	12th	.918	80.9	88.0	14.2	73.8	82.3	77.5	.881	75.4	80	0.01
"	13th	30.014	82.3	95.4	26.3	69.1	86.6	78.0	.844	74.1	67	0.11
"	14th	.003	85.9	96.0	20.2	75.8	88.5	79.5	.887	75.6	66	Nil.
"	15th	29.904	84.6	94.0	18.8	75.2	87.4	79.5	.902	76.1	69	1.02
"	16th	.802	84.8	91.9	14.3	77.6	88.6	78.5	.840	74.0	63	Nil.

The mean 10 A.M. pressure of the seven days	...	...	...	Inches.
				29.888
The mean temperature of the seven days	...	...	...	84.5
The extreme variation of temperature	...	...	...	27.1
The maximum temperature	...	...	...	96.2
The mean 10 A.M. relative humidity of the seven days	...	...	...	68
The total fall of rain from 10th to 16th April 1898	...	...	...	Inches.
				1.14

The daily mean temperatures are the crude means of maximum and minimum temperatures.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,

The 18th April 1898.

C. LITTLE,

Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 9th April 1898, as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.

NATURE OF CARGO.	WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 9TH APRIL 1898.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 10TH APRIL 1897.		
	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
	No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy	250	76,425	1,308	322	40,535	576
Jute	63	35,550	465	17	16,850	166
Firewood	41	32,225	486	101	76,000	1,125
Other articles	719	1,83,035	2,475	625	1,95,515	2,950
Total	1,073	3,27,235	4,734	1,065	3,28,900	4,817

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

Approximate return of traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 16th April 1898, as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.

NATURE OF CARGO.	WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 16TH APRIL 1898.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 17TH APRIL 1897.		
	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
	No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy	162	52,450	853	201	77,605	1,297
Jute	49	29,450	418	25	25,496	282
Firewood	55	43,625	735	109	52,875	788
Other articles	498	1,12,050	1,547	572	1,58,720	2,399
Total	764	2,37,575	3,553	907	3,14,696	4,766

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, —BENGAL.

Statement showing heights over mean sea-level and low-water in the Rivers Ganges, Bhagirathi, Jalangi, and Brahmaputra, for the month of February 1898.

Date.	Miles.	RIVER GANGES.										RIVER BHAGIRATHI.		RIVER JALANGI.		RIVER BRAHMAPUTRA.	
		Mirzapur.		Benares.		Buxar.		Dinapore.		Monghyr.		Sahibganj.		Rampur Boalia.		Goalundo.	
		From Allahabad.	Height over zero of gauge.	From Allahabad.	Height over zero of gauge.	From Benares.	Height over zero of gauge.	From Benares.	Height over zero of gauge.	From Benares.	Height over zero of gauge.	From Benares.	Height over zero of gauge.	From Benares.	Height over zero of gauge.	From Benares.	Height over zero of gauge.
1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th
6th
7th
8th
9th
10th
11th
12th
13th
14th
15th
16th
17th
18th
19th
20th
21st
22nd
23rd
24th
25th
26th
27th
28th

CALCUTTA,
The 19th April 1898.

T. H. CLOWES,
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Statement of Goods Traffic in staples carried during the four weeks ending 26th February 1898, as compared with the same period of 1897.

STAPLES.	1897.		1898.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
Coal & Coke carried for the public and foreign railways	88,11,663	11,60,680	80,66,622	11,06,929	...	...	7,45,041	62,751
Cotton, raw	2,04,046	1,24,162	1,50,189	90,807	...	...	54,757	24,295
Cotton, manufactured—								
1.—Twist & Yarn, European	6,392	8,562	9,005	7,942	2,613	...	...	...
2.—Ditto, Indian	36,711	17,155	33,271	17,187	...	32	3,440	...
3.—Piece-goods—European	1,61,010	1,74,522	1,56,046	1,68,168	...	...	4,064	6,364
4.—Ditto —Indian	17,576	11,859	17,557	10,308	...	...	19	1,561
Drugs and Chemicals—								
1.—Intoxicating, other than opium	253	114	97	61	...	...	156	53
2.—Non-intoxicating	9,988	8,622	14,503	11,031	4,605	2,409	...	...
Dyes and Tans—								
1.—Indigo	15,496	16,184	3,396	3,888	...	...	12,070	12,296
2.—Myrabolams	34,788	7,990	33,864	7,415	...	...	924	575
3.—Cutch	5,294	1,582	2,450	1,045	...	...	2,844	537
4.—Turmeric	9,628	6,378	14,418	12,404	4,790	6,116	...	...
5.—Aniline dyes	386	76	462	211	76	135	...	...
6.—Others	4,311	705	17,060	3,130	12,649	2,434	...	...
Grain and Pulse—								
1.—Wheat	1,18,034	10,298	2,82,728	1,02,480	1,64,694	83,182	...	...
2.—Rice in the husk	1,59,681	32,785	1,33,763	12,533	...	...	25,918	20,252
3.—Rice not in the husk	21,47,412	7,67,584	9,32,116	1,91,525	...	...	12,15,296	5,76,059
4.—Jowar and bajra	39,199	7,066	1,42,472	21,554	1,03,273	14,488	...	...
5.—Gram & pulse	6,74,024	2,12,594	2,66,877	54,604	...	...	4,07,147	1,58,290
6.—Others	1,86,003	30,932	1,15,971	24,190	...	...	70,032	15,733
Hides and Skins—								
1.—Hides of cattle	98,026	56,609	84,055	55,826	...	...	13,971	843
2.—Skins of sheep, &c.	16,576	4,369	11,520	4,841	...	...	5,056	1,028
Horns	1,966	1,013	1,321	547	...	...	745	466
Jobs—								
1.—Raw	84,835	20,944	2,60,051	54,735	1,75,216	33,791	...	...
2.—Gunny-bags and cloth	86,372	39,306	95,219	40,523	8,847	10,218	...	...
Lac—								
1.—Stick	39,017	13,419	33,481	10,649	...	...	5,536	2,770
2.—Shell	36,166	30,077	20,513	16,239	...	...	15,653	13,838
Leather, manufactured	7,326	8,202	5,894	6,066	...	...	1,432	2,136
Liquors—								
1.—Beer	19,037	6,070	16,352	4,402	...	...	2,685	1,668
2.—Spirits	2,519	2,785	1,682	2,037	...	...	837	748
3.—Wines	3,626	5,453	3,191	4,324	...	...	435	1,129
Metals—								
1.—Copper, unwrought	1,158	1,427	3,073	2,442	1,915	1,015	...	...
2.—Brass, ditto	907	551	1,589	1,652	682	1,131	...	...
3.—Copper, wrought	4,640	5,104	1,299	990	...	...	3,341	4,114
4.—Brass, ditto	24,538	11,479	16,749	7,751	...	...	7,789	3,728
5.—Iron	1,90,302	88,155	1,84,260	66,994	...	...	6,042	21,161
6.—Others	13,205	9,043	16,246	11,552	3,041	2,509	...	...
7.—Zinc & spelter	1,525	921	2,436	1,591	911	670	...	...
Oils—								
1.—Kerosine	1,36,071	58,480	1,31,557	45,128	...	...	4,514	13,352
2.—Castor	4,343	1,096	5,054	1,404	711	398	...	...
3.—Coconut	4,945	1,783	4,734	1,903	...	120	211	...
4.—Others	17,786	6,984	15,293	5,992	...	...	2,493	992
Oil-seeds—								
1.—Linseed	61,333	16,854	1,09,672	43,013	1,08,339	27,159	...	...
2.—Rape and mustard	1,57,567	37,441	2,49,159	42,767	91,592	5,326	...	...
3.—Til or jinjili	36,525	6,713	62,457	13,904	45,932	8,191	...	...
4.—Poppy	8,076	2,747	6,807	2,149	...	...	1,269	598
5.—Earthnuts	475	166	661	176	186	10	...	...
6.—Castor	34,121	7,102	75,750	17,205	41,629	10,103	...	...
7.—Others	1,845	298	27,943	5,802	26,098	5,544	...	...
Opium	743	675	1,759	1,455	1,016	789	...	...
Paper and pasteboard	12,236	10,779	16,336	8,501	4,100	...	...	2,278
Provisions—								
1.—Ghee	50,410	36,151	47,063	33,751	...	...	3,347	2,400
2.—Dried fruits and nuts	15,088	7,087	14,076	6,900	...	...	1,012	187
3.—Others	56,003	34,035	53,001	37,098	...	3,003	3,002	...
4.—Potatoes	76,790	17,142	86,775	15,170	9,985	...	...	1,972
Railway plant & rolling-stock carried for the public & foreign railways—								
1.—Locomotive engines & tenders & parts thereof	521	41	13,020	4,827	12,499	4,786	...	352
2.—Carriages & trucks & parts thereof	18,735	1,510	6,123	1,128	...	...	13,612	...
3.—Steel rails & fish-plates	4,313	707	1,47,914	23,944	1,43,601	23,237	...	...
4.—Sleepers & keys of steel & cast iron ... ..	...	...	42,877	3,875	42,877	3,875	...	...
5.—Other sorts	2,80,364	41,072	1,37,088	21,287	...	...	1,23,876	19,785
Salt	6,32,704	1,22,748	5,80,090	95,250	...	...	52,614	27,498
Saltpetre, &c.—								
1.—Saltpetre	1,19,443	46,484	61,726	23,628	...	...	57,717	22,856
2.—Other saline substances	40,550	4,249	39,673	12,351	...	8,102	857	...
Silk, raw—								
1.—Foreign	148	42	4	1	...	...	144	41
2.—Indian	3,744	2,004	3,123	1,662	...	...	621	342
Silk piece-goods—								
1.—Foreign	1	4	2	0	1	5	...	...
2.—Indian	197	187	333	627	136	440	...	...

STAPLES.	1897.		1898.		INCREASE.		DECREASE.	
	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.	Weight.	Freight.
	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.	Rs.
<i>Spices—</i>								
1.—Betel-nuts ...	22,883	19,536	20,039	15,399	...	...	2,844	4,137
2.—Pepper ...	1,965	1,780	3,964	3,903	1,999	2,123	...	...
3.—Ginger ...	1,562	636	2,757	1,109	1,195	473	...	...
4.—Chillies ...	43,471	25,096	57,676	43,457	14,205	18,361	...	...
5.—Cardamoms ...	1,287	1,413	1,189	1,128	...	...	95	285
6.—Others ...	2,448	1,312	1,400	643	...	...	1,048	669
Stone and lime ...	3,95,868	73,117	4,95,077	72,164	99,231	...	...	953
<i>Sugar—</i>								
1.—Refined ...	14,976	6,551	19,911	8,157	4,935	1,606	...	...
2.—Unrefined ...	7,34,563	1,18,906	7,97,485	1,46,213	62,922	27,307	...	...
<i>Tea—</i>								
1.—Foreign ...	3	1	...	...	...	...	3	1
2.—Indian ...	2,564	1,907	1,609	1,703	...	...	955	204
rubber ...	1,83,063	27,735	1,14,030	16,414	...	...	69,633	11,321
tobacco ...	37,089	17,845	29,259	15,649	...	...	7,830	2,196
cool, raw ...	4,602	3,956	4,100	1,223	...	...	502	2,733
<i>Cool, manufactured—</i>								
1.—Piece-goods, European	335	476	154	364	...	...	181	112
2.—" " Indian	5,722	4,853	1,936	1,646	...	...	3,786	3,207
3.—Shawls ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Other articles of merchandise—</i>								
1.—Firewood ...	33,550	2,287	45,499	2,452	11,949	165	...	...
2.—Indigo seed ...	1,87,902	70,983	1,17,344	47,882	...	...	70,558	23,101
3.—Mowah flower ...	39,166	9,181	11,315	2,338	...	...	27,851	6,843
4.—Oil-cake ...	75,717	13,869	66,473	11,589	...	...	9,244	2,289
5.—Paints & colours ...	24,122	5,447	11,899	6,500	...	1,053	12,223	...
6.—Seeds other than oilseeds	84,016	28,353	53,599	19,391	...	...	30,426	8,962
7.—Wooden articles ...	20,351	6,627	14,532	5,453	...	...	5,819	1,174
8.—Others ...	8,02,084	2,65,132	10,30,326	2,84,502	12,27,642	29,370	...	...
Total ...	1,77,48,672	40,98,676	1,60,74,244	33,39,037	...	...	16,74,428	7,54,639
<i>Litrary stores ...</i>	<i>15,448</i>	<i>22,919</i>	<i>1,03,244</i>	<i>91,567</i>	<i>87,796</i>	<i>68,650</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>
<i>al for railway</i>	<i>12,28,842</i>	<i>96,322</i>	<i>6,66,905</i>	<i>44,232</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>5,62,537</i>	<i>22,090</i>
<i>ilway materials</i>	<i>19,11,899</i>	<i>64,229</i>	<i>14,49,459</i>	<i>62,195</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>4,65,440</i>	<i>2,083</i>
<i>re-stock</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>40,542</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>16,836</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>23,706</i>
Total ...	2,09,04,861	43,17,088	1,82,90,252	33,53,870	...	...	26,14,009	7,63,818

C. W. CLARKE, Assistant Auditor.

TRAFFIC AUDIT OFFICE, GOODS DIVISION, JAMALPUR, the 7th April 1898.

EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

Abstract of principal Commodities carried over the Eastern Bengal State Railway during the month of January 1898, as compared with the same month of the previous year.

STAPLES.	1898.		1897.		Total.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	1898.	1897.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Coal and Coke carried for the Public and Foreign Railways.	10,661	8,927	7,078	6,080	19,583	13,758	5,830	
Cotton, raw	43	471	12	556	514	568		54
Cotton, manufactured—								
Twist and yarn, European	287		266		287	266	21	
Ditto, Indian	230	134	200	191	370	391		21
Piece-goods, European	2,147	16	2,088	5	2,163	2,093	70	
Ditto, Indian	85	10	43	27	45	70		25
Drugs and Chemicals—								
Intoxicating, other than opium			3	2		5		2
Non-intoxicating—								
Cinchona bark								
Others	51	12	40	6	63	46	17	
Dyes and Tans—								
Indigo		4		56	4	56		52
Myrabolans								
Cutch	47		47		47	47		
Turmeric	11	94	3	56	105	59	46	
Aniline dyes								
Others	27		25		27	25	2	
Grain and pulse—								
Wheat	25	4	20	1	20	21	8	
Rice in the husk	3,211	7,376	7,065	6,283	10,587	13,348		2,761
Rice not in the husk	4,207	1,004	7,292	1,039	5,271	8,331		3,060
Jowar and bajra								
Gram and pulse	1,804	2,375	805	8,861	3,879	9,666		5,787
Others	59	110	29		169	29	140	
Hides and skins—								
Hides of cattle—								
Dressed or tanned								
Raw								
Skins of sheep, &c.—	24	868	3	662	892	665	227	
Dressed or tanned								
Raw								
Horns	4			4	4	4		
Jute—								
Raw	299	47,594	21	16,829	47,893	16,850	31,043	
Gunny-bags and cloth	328	608	373	970	936	1,343		407
Lac—								
Stick								
Shell		278		157	278	157	121	
Leather, manufactured	64		80	1	64	81		17
Liquors—								
Beer	36	8	44	10	43	54		11
Spirits	4		3		4	3	1	
Wines	67		68		67	68		1
Metals—								
Copper, unwrought								
Brass, ditto	15		9		15	9	6	
Copper, wrought	3	3	9		6	9		3
Brass, do.	191	43	176	52	234	228	6	
Iron	1,731	203	1,880	76	1,934	1,956		22
Others	104	19	190		123	190		67
Oils—								
Kerosine	8,086	68	6,791	73	8,154	6,864	1,290	
Castor	13		10		13	10	3	
Coconut	60		61		60	61		1
Others	237	5	256	4	232	260		28
Oilseeds—								
Linseed		251		96	251	96	155	
Rape and mustard	36	482	44	1,328	518	1,372		544
Til or jinjil	3	23	7	603	26	609		583
Poppy								
Earthnuts					3		3	
Castor								
Others								
Opium	1	8	6	13	8	19		11
Paper and pasteboard	141	20	159	97	161	236		75
Provisions—								
Ghee	69	9	51	6	78	57	21	
Dried fruits and nuts								
Others	732	894	895	676	1,606	1,571		35
Railway plant and rolling-stock carried for the Public and Foreign Railways—								
Locomotives, engines, and tenders and parts thereof								
Carriages and trucks and parts thereof								
Materials—								
Steel rails and fish-plates, sleepers, and keys of steel and cast-iron.	469		743		469	743		274
Other sorts	103	561	440		664	440	215	
Salt	2,682	32	5,602	237	2,714	5,839		3,125
Saltpetre, &c.—								
Saltpetre	5		5		5	5		
Other saline substances								
Milk, raw—								
Foreign								
Indian		11		12	11	12		1

STAPLES.	1896.		1897.		Total.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Up.	Down.	Up.	Down.	1896.	1897.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Silk piece-goods—								
Foreign	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Indian—								
Muga	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Endi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spices—								
Betel-nuts	327	1,037	419	614	1,364	1,033	331	...
Pepper	34	2	64	1	36	65	...	29
Ginger	...	38	...	73	88	72	...	34
Chillies	553	1	247	24	534	271	263	...
Cardamoms	...	21	...	61	21	61	...	40
Others	100	19	78	69	119	137	...	18
Stone and lime	989	311	794	211	1,300	1,005	295	...
Sugar—								
Refined or crystallized, including sugar-candy.	459	2	204	2	461	206	255	...
Unrefined, viz., molasses and jaggery or gur, and other saccharine produce.	1,700	246	1,722	867	1,946	2,589	...	643
Tea—								
Foreign	...	1,165	...	1,514	1,165	1,514	...	349
Indian	403	174	431	154	677	585	...	8
Timber								
Foreign	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Indian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tobacco—								
Unmanufactured	44	604	86	958	648	1,044	...	396
Manufactured—								
Cigars	...	...	28	11	...	39	...	39
Other sorts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wool, raw	2	224	...	258	226	258	...	32
Wool, manufactured—								
Piece-goods, European	...	7	13	1	7	14	...	7
Ditto, Indian	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shawls								
All other articles of merchandise	6,230	3,538	7,590	2,951	6,738	10,541	...	803
Total	48,931	79,824	54,615	53,430	128,755	108,045	40,370	19,660

CALCUTTA, the 14th April 1898.

H. STUART,
Examiner of Accounts.

Weekly Return of Traffic Receipts on Indian Railways.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 26th March 1898 on 1,705.09 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES	
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.
	(a)	Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
Total traffic for the week ...	325,751	3,55,662 14 0	44,43,531 20	8,88,146 12 0	26,051 0 0	12,69,850 10 0	93,514	171,441
Or per mile of railway ...	...	208 9 4	...	520 14 1	15 4 5	744 11 10	...	...
For previous 11½ weeks of half-year.	3,630,445*	39,10,377 13 0*	4,83,37,924 30†	94,29,242 2 0†	2,43,411 0 0†	1,35,83,090 15 0	1,072,923‡	1,767,789‡
Total for 12½ weeks ...	3,956,196	42,66,030 11 0	5,27,81,456 10	1,03,17,388 14 0	2,69,462 0 0	1,48,62,881 9 0	1,166,437‡	1,939,434‡
COMPARISON.								
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	288,482	3,13,732 5 5	42,34,821 30	8,43,636 8 7	20,590 7 3	11,77,349 5 3	90,011	155,631
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	...	184 4 10	...	495 3 11	12 1 5	691 10 2	...	...
Total for corresponding 12½ weeks of previous year ...	3,805,593‡	40,60,631 8 11	5,02,16,542 10	1,04,54,301 3 7	2,66,498 10 4	1,47,81,431 6 10	1,123,943	1,870,315

(a) The increase is chiefly in outward traffic.

* Deducted No. of passengers 13,711 and

† Ditto Mds. 1,41,020 and

‡ Added

Rs. 10,934

Rs. 3,893

Rs. 1,341

On account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the week ended February 1898.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 2nd April 1898 on 1,705.09 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES	
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.
	(a)	Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
Total traffic for the week ...	320,147	3,84,193 0 0	44,09,609 10	8,94,138 1 0	24,232 0 0	13,02,563 1 0	96,367	1,67,259
Or per mile of railway ...	...	225 5 2	...	524 6 3	14 3 5	763 14 10	...	...
For previous 12½ weeks of half-year ...	3,964,398	42,83,009 11 0	5,29,15,458 10	1,03,16,490 14 0	2,74,051 0 0	1,48,73,551 9 0	1,166,437‡	1,939,424‡
Total for 13½ weeks ...	4,284,545	46,67,202 11 0	5,73,25,067 20	1,12,10,628 15 0	2,98,283 0 0	1,61,76,114 10 0	1,262,804‡	2,106,683‡
COMPARISON.								
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	288,736‡	3,50,208 12 7	41,86,805 30	9,10,717 13 9	20,293 15 2	12,90,220 9 6	93,596	160,766
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	...	211 0 3	...	535 0 1	11 14 9	757 15 1	...	...
Total for corresponding 13½ weeks of previous year ...	4,094,330	44,19,840 5 6	5,44,03,348 0	1,13,65,019 1 4	2,86,792 9 6	1,60,71,652 0 4	1,217,539	2,031,080

* Added number of passengers 8,202 and

† Do. maunds 1,34,002 and deducted

‡ Do.

(a) The increase is chiefly due to pilgrim traffic to and from Gaya.

Rs. 16,979

Rs. 898

Rs. 4,589

On account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the week ended February 1898.

TARKESSUR BRANCH RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 26th March 1898 on 22.23 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES	
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. S.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
Total traffic for the week ...	22,162	5,742 12 0	18,291 0	763 6 0	9 0 0	6,520 2 0	1,077	111
Or per mile of railway ...	...	258 5 4	...	34 9 0	0 6 6	293 4 10	...	...
For previous 11½ weeks of half-year.	284,201*	72,207 11 0*	1,91,393 10†	7,877 5 0†	101 0 0†	80,186 0 0	12,266	1,393
Total for 12½ weeks ...	306,363	77,950 7 0	2,09,684 10	8,645 11 0	110 0 0	86,706 2 0	13,343	1,463
COMPARISON.								
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	20,396	4,954 15 7	19,986 10	789 12 0	7 12 0	5,752 7 7	1,092	96
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	...	222 14 4	...	35 8 5	0 5 7	258 12 4	...	...
Total for corresponding 12½ weeks of previous year ...	269,545	74,305 9 0	2,43,827 20	8,700 13 0	72 13 0	83,079 3 0	13,542	1,198

* Added No. of passengers 1,217 and Rs. 378

† Deducted Mds. 523 and added

‡ Added

On account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the week ended 12th 1898.

TARKESSUR BRANCH RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 2nd April 1898 on 22.23 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
all traffic for the week ...	24,506	6,222 14 0	20,963 0	921 14 0	10 0 0	7,154 12 0	1,080	108	1,188
per mile of railway ...	.....	279 14 11	.....	41 7 6	0 7 2	321 13 7	.....	.....	.....
previous 12½ weeks of half-year ...	*306,342	*78,103 7 0	*2,11,375 10	*8,764 11 0	*111 0 0	86,979 2 0	13,343	1,463	14,806
Total for 13½ weeks ...	330,848	84,326 5 0	2,31,338 10	9,686 9 0	121 0 0	94,133 14 0	14,423	1,571	15,994
COMPARISON.									
all for corresponding week previous year ...	25,217½	6,399 12 5	20,643 0	902 8 0	6 12 0	7,309 0 5	1,097	91	1,188
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	287 14 3	.....	40 9 7	0 4 10	328 12 8	.....	.....	.....
for corresponding 13½ weeks of previous year ...	324,792½	80,705 5 5	2,64,470 20	9,603 5 0	79 9 0	90,388 3 5	14,639	1,289	15,928

Deducted No. of passengers 21 and added
Added maunds 691 and
Do.

Rs. 153 }
" 119 } on account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the week ended 19th February 1898.
Rs. 1 }

DELHI-UMBALLA-KALKA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for week ended 26th March 1898 on 162.24 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
all traffic for the week ...	(a) 20,481	(a) 19,109 1 0	1,25,213 20	16,640 2 0	87 0 0	35,845 3 0	7,353	5,309	12,662
per mile of railway ...	.....	117 13 6	.....	102 9 11	0 8 7	220 15 0	.....	.....	.....
previous 11½ weeks of half-year ...	409,807*	2,41,117 4 0*	12,04,373 3½	1,84,782 11 0*	1,089 0 0½	4,26,988 15 0	85,189	51,716	136,905
Total for 12½ weeks ...	430,288	2,60,226 5 0	13,29,587 10	2,01,431 13 0	1,176 0 0	4,62,834 2 0	92,542	57,025	149,567
COMPARISON.									
all for corresponding week previous year ...	20,537½	24,432 13 7	83,661 0	13,068 5 0	58 4 3	37,550 6 10	6,999	3,797	10,796
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	152 4 1	.....	81 7 0	0 5 10	234 0 11	.....	.....	.....
for corresponding 12½ weeks of previous year ...	200,818	1,71,097 1 3	11,54,362 30	1,35,653 14 0	775 4 6	3,07,526 3 3	81,446	45,955	127,401

(a) The decrease is due to the movement to Simla of Government of India Offices.

Deducted No. of passengers 315 and
Do. Mds. 8,022 and
Do.

Rs. 913 }
" 1,291 } on account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the week ended 12th February 1898.
" 2 }

DELHI-UMBALLA-KALKA RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ended 2nd April 1898 on 162.24 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
all traffic for the week ...	20,130	21,922 15 0	1,07,027 30	15,763 0 0	42 0 0	37,728 10 0	7,977	5,266	13,243
per mile of railway ...	.....	135 2 0	.....	97 2 7	0 4 2	232 8 9	.....	.....	.....
previous 12½ weeks of half-year ...	*430,724	*2,60,680 5 0	*13,22,340 10	*2,01,329 13 0	*1,182 0 0	4,63,192 2 0	92,542	57,025	149,567
Total for 13½ weeks ...	450,854	2,82,603 4 0	14,29,368 0	2,17,093 8 0	1,224 0 0	5,00,920 12 0	100,519	62,291	162,810
COMPARISON.									
all for corresponding week previous year ...	20,488	23,401 15 7	87,601 20	12,601 0 0	54 6 6	36,057 6 1	7,258	4,139	11,397
per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	.....	145 13 4	.....	78 8 5	0 5 5	224 11 2	.....	.....	.....
for corresponding 13½ weeks of previous year ...	221,306	1,94,499 0 10	12,41,904 10	1,48,234 14 0	829 10 6	3,43,583 9 4	88,704	50,094	138,798

Added number of passengers 436 and
Deducted Mds. 7,247 and
Added

Rs. 454 }
" 102 } on account of difference between the approximate and audited figures for the week ended 19th February 1898.
" 6 }

EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

(INCLUDING N. B., DACCA, K.-D., AND ASSAM-BIHAR SECTIONS.)

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 9th April 1898 on 818 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings, including ferry.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	188,670	1,12,110 0 0	6,88,460 0	1,09,470 0 0	8,040 0 0	2,29,620 0 0	32,350	36,784	69,134
Or per mile of railway ...	231	137 0 0	841 0	134 0 0	*2 0 0	*273 0 0	.....	.....	.....
For previous 13 weeks of half-year† ...	2,690,500	13,98,087 0 0	1,22,39,511 0	21,44,026 0 0	2,07,857 0 0	37,51,170 0 0	452,580	530,710	983,290
Total for 14 weeks ...	2,879,170	15,10,797 0 0	1,29,27,971 0	22,54,096 0 0	2,15,897 0 0	39,80,730 0 0	484,930	567,494	1,052,424
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding period of previous year ...	210,073	98,812 0 0	8,55,461 0	1,27,668 0 0	7,870 0 0	2,34,350 0 0	32,423	37,874	70,297
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	258	121 0 0	1,051 0	157 0 0	2 0 0	280 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	2,894,953	15,47,342 0 0	1,23,50,960 0	17,09,588 0 0	2,16,135 0 0	34,73,065 0 0	473,076	476,510	949,586

* Excluding steamer earnings.

† Audited up to 12th February 1898.

DACCA STATE RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 9th April 1898 on 86 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	23,880	9,270 0 0	25,090 0	2,500 0 0	230 0 0	12,000 0 0	2,622	1,310	3,932
Or per mile of railway ...	278	108 0 0	292 0	29 0 0	3 0 0	140 0 0	.....	.....	.....
For previous 13 weeks of half-year*	352,098	1,22,784 0 0	556,646 0	58,610 0 0	1,923 0 0	1,83,317 0 0	36,906	22,501	59,407
Total for 14 weeks ...	375,978	1,32,054 0 0	581,736 0	61,110 0 0	2,153 0 0	1,95,317 0 0	39,528	23,711	63,239
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	28,506	7,387 0 0	65,741 0	4,183 0 0	241 0 0	11,811 0 0	2,824	1,230	4,054
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	331	86 0 0	764 0	48 0 0	3 0 0	137 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	312,190	94,253 0 0	519,722 0	41,804 0 0	2,781 0 0	1,38,838 0 0	36,353	17,273	53,626

* Audited up to 12th February 1898.

BENGAL CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 2nd April 1898 on 125 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	30,908	13,581 0 0	68,350 0	4,082 0 0	214 0 0	17,877 0 0	5,007	2,187	7,194
Or per mile of railway ...	247	108 0 0	547 0	33 0 0	2 0 0	143 0 0	.....	.....	.....
For previous 12 weeks of half-year*	3,79,889	1,70,870 0 0	779,863 0	53,406 0 0	34,183 0 0	2,58,409 0 0	55,741	29,968	85,709
Total for 13 weeks ...	4,10,797	1,84,451 0 0	848,213 0	57,489 0 0	34,347 0 0	2,76,286 0 0	60,748	32,005	92,753
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	31,649	11,437 0 0	65,658 0	4,406 0 0	197 0 0	16,040 0 0	3,656	3,323	6,979
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	253	91 0 0	525 0	35 0 0	2 0 0	128 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	4,51,629	1,73,549 0 0	972,586 0	56,863 0 0	6,135 0 0	2,36,547 0 0	52,958	35,276	88,234

* Audited up to 5th February 1898.

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

(INCLUDES TIRHUT STATE RAILWAY.)

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending 2nd April 1898 on 85½ miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated), including steam-boat.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
Total traffic for the week on 85½ miles open ...	156,900	Rs. (a) 66,600	Mds. (b) 5,16,440	Rs. (b) 70,640	Rs. 18,290	Rs. (a) 1,55,530	19,970	(c) 26,872	46,842
Or per mile of railway ...	183.72	77.98	694.73	82.72	21.42	182.12	.....	.....	.....
For previous 12½ weeks of half-year (d) ...	1,233,005	5,71,971	62,24,400	8,12,564	2,27,009	16,11,544	2,25,350	294,227	519,577
Total for 13½ weeks ...	1,440,905	6,38,571	67,40,939	8,93,204	2,45,239	17,67,074	2,45,320	321,099	566,419
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year on 81½ miles open ...	106,646	44,173	5,90,130	64,939	21,943	1,31,061	15,437	(e) 24,413	39,850
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	130.21	53.94	720.55	79.29	26.80	160.03	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	1,428,147	5,62,592	65,77,226	7,29,707	2,26,090	15,25,339	2,02,560	288,576	491,136

(a) Increase is due to Ram Naumi Mela at Ajodhya Ghat.

(b) The decreased weight with increased freight is due to larger quantities of food-grains having been carried over short leads last year.

(c) Includes 1,170 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

(d) " audited figures up to week ending 22nd January 1898.

(e) " 2,730 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ended 2nd April 1898 on 286 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
Total traffic for the week ...	44,652	Rs. A. P. 20,769 0 0	Mds. s. 2,22,438 0	Rs. A. P. 7,205 0 0	Rs. A. P. 320 0 0	Rs. A. P. 37,294 0 0	3,880	4,274	8,154
Or per mile of railway ...	156.13	104.09	777.76	25.19	1.12	130.40	13.57	14.94	28.51
For previous 12 weeks of half-year ...	317,951	1,89,010 0 0	27,79,663 0	1,04,620 0 0	5,742 0 0	2,90,372 0 0	30,508	53,080	83,588
Total for 13 weeks ...	362,603	2,18,779 0 0	30,02,101 0	1,11,825 0 0	6,062 0 0	3,36,666 0 0	40,388	57,354	97,742
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	19,273	9,247 0 0	1,66,957 0	7,161 0 0	336 0 0	16,804 0 0	3,864	6,545	10,409
Or per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	55.38	26.57	463.77	19.89	1.10	47.56	11.10	18.18	29.28
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	277,917	1,61,509 0 0	20,05,482 0	1,16,978 0 0	6,765 0 0	2,85,252 0 0	53,209	93,335	146,544

FINANCIAL YEAR.

Approximate Statement of Gross Receipts of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 2ND APRIL 1898.				RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 3RD APRIL 1897.				TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1897 TO 2ND APRIL 1898.				TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1896 TO 3RD APRIL 1897.				Total increase in 1898.	Total decrease in 1898.
Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.				
586	Rs. 20,639	Rs. 93'14	360	Rs. 9,602	Rs. 27'18	...	Rs.	Rs. ...	...	Rs.	Rs. ...	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
586	10,655	37'26	300	7,202	20'38	286	10,655	...	360	7,202	...	...	3,453	First two days. of April 1898.	

DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

						Rs.	A.	P.
Approximate earnings for the week ending 9th April 1898	...	...	...	...	...	12,762	0	0
Corresponding period of 1897	...	...	...	...	...	12,467	0	0
Increase	...	...	...	...	...	295	0	0
Receipts per mile for the week ending 9th April 1898	...	...	...	...	...	250	3	9
Ditto for the corresponding period of 1897	...	...	...	...	...	244	7	3
Increase	...	...	...	...	...	5	12	6
Receipts from 1st January to 9th April 1898	...	...	...	...	...	1,63,006	0	0
Corresponding period of 1897	...	...	...	...	...	1,74,034	0	0
Decrease	...	...	...	...	...	11,028	0	0

REGISTERED No. 29.]

No. 17 of 1898.



SUPPLEMENT TO The Calcutta Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1898.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

[Non-Subscribers to the GAZETTE may receive the SUPPLEMENT separately on payment of Six Rupees per annum if delivered in Calcutta, or Twelve Rupees if sent by Post.]

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VICTORIA ZENANA HOSPITAL.

No. 2469Medl., dated Calcutta, the 23rd April 1898.

From—H. H. RISLEY, Esq., C.I.E., Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, Municipal Department,

To—The Commissioner of the Presidency Division.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 27G.—Medl., dated the 9th March 1898, in which you report that Babu Ashutosh Nath Roy, of Cossimbazar, has forwarded to you a cheque on the Bank of Bengal for the sum of one lakh of rupees as a contribution towards the Building Fund of the new Victoria Zenana Hospital in Calcutta, and recommend that the gift may be suitably acknowledged.

2. In reply, I am to request that you will be so good as to convey to Babu Ashutosh Nath Roy an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's thanks for his munificent gift and for the liberality and public spirit displayed by him.

3. The letter will be published in the *Calcutta Gazette*.

RESOLUTION ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH OFFICER
OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA FOR THE YEAR 1897.

No. 835 Marine.

Government of Bengal.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Dated Calcutta, the 16th April 1898.

RESOLUTION.

READ—

Letter from the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, No. 1006, dated the 24th February 1898, submitting the Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta for the year 1897.

The duties of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta were performed by Dr. Forsyth. His work was done in the steam-launch *Relief*. Surgeon-Captains J. Gould, B. C. Oldham, F. O'Kinealy, and Dr. C. Banks were appointed Additional Health Officers of the Port. A steam-cutter was placed at the disposal of the Health Officer for the use of these officers. The Sanitary Inspector carried out his duties in a *holio*.

2. The total number of inward and outward bound vessels inspected during the year was 2,091, against 1,566 in the previous year and 1,592 in 1895. The total number of vessels which arrived in port was 1,182, of which 958 were inspected. There were 1,186 departures, of which 1,133 were inspected. All vessels arriving from the ports of Bombay, Goa, Jeddah and Karachee and flying the quarantine flag, as well as those arriving from foreign ports, were inspected on arrival. Indian coasting steamers were inspected only four times during the year.

3. The Health Officer mentions six vessels that have had their forecastles improved. In his report for the previous year, he brought to the notice of this Department certain defects in connection with the new types of vessels which have recently been introduced by the British India Steam Navigation Company and the Clan Line. The defects having been brought to the notice of the British India Steam Navigation Company, they undertook to secure improved ventilation of cabins and to provide an awning for the protection of officers, and the Health Officer, in September last, stated that he would refer to the subject again in his Annual Report for 1897. In the report under consideration, however, no further information is given on the point. The attention of the Health Officer will be drawn to the matter, and he will be asked to state whether the necessary improvements have been carried out.

4. The number of European seamen who arrived in the port during the year was returned at 19,608, against 17,053 in the previous year. The daily average number in port was 1,202, against 1,124 in 1896. The total number of admissions into hospital amounted to 995; the death-rate per mille was 21.63 against 28.46 in the year previous, and the quinquennial mean of 17.21. Including the deaths out of hospital, the death-rate per mille was 33.27 during the year, against 40.92, 31.44 and 26.33 in the three preceding years. Of the admissions into hospital, 13 were due to cholera, 11 of which ended fatally. There were 52 admissions from bowel-complaints, and one from small-pox, but none of these ended fatally. There were three admissions from sunstroke, with one death. There were seven cases of drowning during the year.

The following table shows the number of admissions into hospital from venereal diseases during the year 1897 and the previous ten years:—

Year.	Admissions.	Admission rate per 1,000.
1887	228	120.4
1888	183	121.1
1889	186	114.3
1890	248	147.7
1891	185	129.7
1892	479	224.5
1893	386	185.4
1894	343	231.6
1895	342	238.9
1896	215	191.2
1897	239	198.8

5. There were altogether 208 deaths, 68 in and 140 out of hospital among the Native floating population, against 219 deaths in 1896 and 123 in 1895, the death-rate per mille (8.11) being lower than that of 1896, which was 8.54. Of this total, 116 deaths were from cholera, 50 of which occurred in hospital against 156 deaths from this cause in 1896. There were 8 deaths from small-pox, 47 deaths from fever and 13 from bowel-complaints.

6. The S.S. *Sultan* sailed from Calcutta for Jeddah on the 21st January 1897, with 60 pilgrims on board. The S.S. *Pekin* left Jeddah on the 28th May 1897, with 1,021 pilgrims, touched at Bombay on the 10th June, and arrived at Diamond Harbour on the 29th June with 443 pilgrims. No complaints were made.

7. The S.S. *Africa* arrived from Rangoon on the 15th January 1897, with one case of small-pox on board. The case was removed to the Campbell Hospital, and the vessel disinfected; unprotected members of the crew and passengers were also vaccinated.

8. One hundred and ninety-four vessels arrived during the year from the plague-infected ports of Bombay, Goa, Jeddah and Karachee, flying the quarantine flag at the fore. None of these vessels had a suspicious case on board.

9. The number of corpses and carcasses found floating in the river shows an increase. The number of corpses was 167, against 165 in 1896, 133 in 1895, 79 in 1894 and 72 in 1893. The number of carcasses was 2,718, against 2,707 in 1896, 2,216 in 1895, 2,179 in 1894 and 1,932 in 1893. The matter will be brought to the notice of the Judicial Department.

10. Municipal filtered water was supplied to the shipping throughout the year, and no complaints regarding the quality of the supply were made.

11. The stores for the Native crew of the S.S. *Clan Linsay* were examined, and 50 bags of rice were condemned.

Three members of the crew of the ship *Kentmere* complained of the salt-beef supplied to them as being bad. On examination, it was found to be of excellent quality.

The master of the ship *North Star* submitted flour from the ship's stores for report. It was found damaged by water and unfit for use.

On a complaint made by the Serang and a lascar of the S.S. *Clan Macpherson* regarding the rice issued to them, 40 bags (about 80 maunds) were rejected as not being up to sample.

Four of the crew of the ship *Leverbank* complained to the Magistrate of the food being unfit for consumption and short in quantity. On examination, the supply was found sufficient and the quality good.

At the request of the master and agent of the ship *County of Dumfries*, 18 bags of the ship's biscuits were examined and condemned.

12. The brick-field at Ghosery and the foreshore opposite the East Indian Railway Company's Coal Dépôt and Messrs. John, King and Company's premises were kept in a satisfactory state. The channel at Mullick Ghat, and the latrines on its banks, however, were not in a satisfactory condition. The matter will be brought to the notice of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

A. D. McARTHUR, *Col., R.E.,*

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

RABI CROPS IN BENGAL, 1897-98.

THE following is published for general information.

REV. DEPT.,
The 20th April 1898.

M. FINUCANE,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

DEPARTMENT OF LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE, BENGAL.

Note on the outturn of the rabi crops in Bengal for 1897-98.

Explanatory.—The present report furnishes estimates of the area and outturn of all kinds of *rabi* crops (food and non-food) and of such special crops as sugarcane, tobacco, *ganja* and opium, for which no separate reports are published.

The normal areas shown in column 5 of the appended statement have been revised with reference to the average areas found to have been sown during the past five years, and also in accordance with revisions made by local officers in the course of the past year.

2. *Character of the Season.*—Good rain fell during the monsoon season of 1897, and left sufficient moisture in the soil for the sowing of the *rabi* crops. In October, every district of these Provinces received considerably more than the normal fall of rain. In November the rain was well distributed, all Divisions of these Provinces receiving slight rain. In December, the rainfall was below the normal in all districts. In January, Bengal Proper received rain in excess of the normal, while in Bihar, Orissa and Chota Nagpur rain was deficient. In February, the rainfall was above the normal in North Bengal and Bihar, and below the normal in other parts of these Provinces. Most of the fall was received on or about the 6th and 11th, except in the hill districts of North Bengal, where light showers were more frequent. The latter half of February was almost entirely rainless. Slight showers of little consequence were received in a few districts in March.

3. *Area cultivated.*—According to the revised estimates shown in column 5 of the appended returns, it will be seen that the total normal area under *rabi* crops and under the special crops mentioned in paragraph 1 of this note amounts to 14,649,500 acres.

The total area sown with all the above crops during the year under report is estimated at 14,234,300 acres, against 13,632,500 acres sown in 1896-97. The increase in area in 1897-98 amounts thus to 601,800 acres.

The area sown during 1897-98 with *rabi* food-crops, *i.e.*, exclusive of sugarcane, is estimated at 9,023,100 acres, against 8,813,600 acres, estimated to have been sown during the previous year. There is thus an increase of 209,500 acres (2·3 per cent.) in the area cultivated in 1897-98. An examination of similar entries against sugarcane will a

show an increase of area in 1897-98, amounting to 129,000 acres. The estimated area in 1897-98 under *rabi* non-food-crops and under tobacco, opium and *ganja*, amounts to 4,249,200 acres, against 3,985,900 acres, the corresponding area in 1896-97.

The increase in all the above cases in the area cultivated in 1897-98, as compared with the area sown in 1896-97, is due to the more favourable character of the season at the time of sowing during the year under review. And it must be noted that the increase was really greater than would appear from the figures given, as a revision of figures in the Shahabad district has led to a decrease in the areas returned, and a similar revision appears also to have been made in Monghyr.

4. *Character of the crop.*—The outturn in 1897-98 of all the *rabi* crops of these Provinces, and of the special crops referred to already, is estimated at $15\frac{1}{2}$ annas against $10\frac{1}{2}$ annas estimated for 1896-97. The outturn of the *rabi* food-crops, inclusive of sugarcane, is estimated at $16\frac{1}{4}$ annas for 1897-98, as compared with an outturn of $10\frac{1}{2}$ annas estimated for 1896-97. The outturn of *rabi* non-food-crops, inclusive of tobacco, *ganja* and opium, is estimated at 14 annas for 1897-98, against 11 annas, the corresponding estimate for the previous year. The increase in the outturn of 1897-98 is due in all cases to the more favourable character of the season throughout the growth and development of the crops. From the Opium Administration Report for the year 1896-97, it appears that the yield of opium per bigha in 1896-97 was about equal to the average of the yield of the previous ten years. It is probable, therefore, that the crop of 1897-98, which is returned as being a little better than the crop of 1896-97, will reach the full average crop of 16 annas. The estimates returned by District Officers, viz., 14 annas for 1897-98 and 13 annas for 1896-97, appear to be low, in view of the figures given in the Opium Administration Report.

N. N. BANERJEE,

*Assistant Director of the Dept. of Land
Records and Agriculture, Bengal.*

COUNTERSIGNED.

P. C. LYON,

*Director of the Dept. of Land
Records and Agriculture, Bengal.*

CALCUTTA,

The 9th April 1898.

Estimate of outturn of rabi crops, 1897-98.

DISTRICT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Burdwan		1,726,080	1,383,000	Wheat Barley Boro or summer rice Gram Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses. Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops (e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others). Sugarcane Total food-crops	1,300 8,800 200 9,000 66,000 45,000 26,000 154,300	1,100 8,500 300 8,800 51,800 41,500 25,400 136,600	1,300 9,600 6,200 7,600 65,900 40,800 27,400 167,800	Annas. 4 16 10 16 16 17 10 8½	Annas. 16 16 16 16 16 17 16 16½	The increase in area and outturn is due to seasonable rainfall. The <i>rabi</i> crops, this year are, if anything, above the average.	The sudden rise in the area under <i>boro</i> rice has not been explained by the Collector. It will be enquired into.
				Tobacco Other <i>rabi</i> non-food-crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c. Total non-food crops GRAND TOTAL	500 50,000 50,500 206,800	500 45,100 45,600 182,200	600 49,100 40,700 217,500	7 4 4 8½	16 16 16 16½		

District.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Total area of district in acres	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.	
Birbhum	1,121,920	885,000	Wheat Gram Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses, Sugarcane Total food-crops Other <i>rabi</i> non-food-crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	5,000 7,600 4,500 9,000 25,500 4,500	100 300 600 6,000 6,900 600	5,400 6,000 4,000 5,000 23,400 4,000	Annas. 4 14 15 15 15 5	Annas. 4 14 15 15 15 5	The ploughing and sowing were done under favourable conditions. If the winter rain had come a little earlier, the outturn would have been fully 16 annas.			
			Total non-food crops ...	4,500	500	4,000	15					
			GRAND TOTAL ...	30,000	7,400	27,400	15					

Bankura	Wheat	...	1,677,400	642,800	5,500	2,800	6,000	6	14	The weather was very favourable at the time of sowing, but the long drought since the latter part of October has stunted the growth of wheat and other crops to a certain extent. The area cropped and the outturn of the year are, however, greater than those of the previous year.	There was a large increase in the area under sugarcane during 1897-98.
	Barley	...			2,000	1,000	3,200	6	14		
	Boro or summer rice	...			800	500	800	4	13		
	Gram	...			6,500	1,000	8,500	6	13		
	Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	...			9,000	1,200	8,500	7	13		
	Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others.	...			3,500	1,400	3,800	6	13		
	Sugarcane	...			15,000	6,500	17,000	10	16		
	Total food-crops	...			42,300	14,400	47,000	6	14		
	Tobacco	...			1,500	500	2,500	6	14		
	Other <i>rabi</i> non-food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	...			32,000	8,800	29,500	6	14		
Midnapore	Total non-food-crops	...			33,500	9,300	33,000	6	14	There has been an increase in the area brought under cultivation this year, and a large outturn is expected. This is due to better rainfall during the year under review.	
	GRAND TOTAL	...			75,800	23,700	79,900	6	14		
	Wheat	...	3,292,800	2,111,500	2,100	1,600	2,600	11	13		
	Barley	...			800	700	800	10	13		
	Boro or summer rice	...			3,000	1,700	2,100	11	11		
	Gram	...			7,500	1,100	1,500	8	11		
	Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	...			100,000	167,300	139,000	9	11		
	Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others.	...			45,000	42,500	42,800	11	12		
	Sugarcane	...			18,000	18,000	18,400	10	14		
	Total food-crops	...			230,400	223,800	227,200	9½	13		
	Tobacco	...			4,000	3,100	3,100	8	10		
	Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	...			140,000	138,200	143,900	8	11		
	Total non-food crops	...			144,000	141,300	146,400	8	11		
	GRAND TOTAL	...			374,400	365,100	373,600	9	11½		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
DISTRICT.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Bochally	1,087,360	702,300	Wheat	100	35	100	Annas. 7	Annas. 9	There having been sufficient and timely rainfall, the area cultivated is larger and the outturn greater than in the previous year.	
			Barley	500	400	500	6	13		
			Boro or summer rice ...	5,000	4,300	4,100	10	13		
			Gram	200	200	300	7	9		
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	23,000	19,000	25,700	9	13		
			Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others.	7,500	6,300	7,000	7	15		
			Sugarcane	13,200	12,300	13,400	12	14		
			Total food-crops	51,500	42,400	51,100	10	13½		
			Tobacco	1,400	1,400	1,500	13	15		
			Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oil-seeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	4,000	2,700	2,900	7	13		
			Total non-food crops	5,400	4,100	4,400	10	14		
			GRAND TOTAL	56,900	46,500	55,500	10	13½		

	1,844,640	1,083,900	Wheat	300	100	200	5	16	The increase in the area under <i>rabi</i> crops this year as compared with that of last year is due to more favourable rainfall. The same cause also accounts for the increase in the estimated output.
Barley		100	...	100	...	300	.....	16	
Boro or summer rice		3,500	...	3,900	...	3,900	16	16	
Gram		6,000	...	3,300	...	3,300	44	14	
Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.		30,000	...	18,700	...	30,100	53	133	
Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops (<i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others).		500	...	500	...	500	16	12	
Sugarcane		4,000	...	3,400	...	4,000	101	14	
Total food-crops		44,400	...	23,200	...	45,100	64	14	
Tobacco		3,000	...	2,400	...	2,800	101	143	
Other <i>rabi</i> non-food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.		3,500	...	1,000	...	3,400	6	133	
Total non-food crops		6,500	...	3,400	...	6,200	8	14	
GRAND TOTAL		50,900	...	26,600	...	51,300	64	14	
Wheat	1,788,180	1,303,000	...	25,000	...	31,400	24	11	The increase in the area sown, as well as in the output, is due to seasonable rainfall. The area sown with sugarcane has doubled this year. The output would have been more satisfactory had there been rain during the sowing season.
Barley		7,500	...	4,600	...	7,500	24	12	
Boro or summer rice		80,400	...	100	...	100	5	10	
Gram		80,000	...	85,900	...	84,500	32	123	
Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.		50,000	...	28,600	...	54,500	6	11	
Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops (<i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others).		1,000	...	800	...	1,100	4	101	
Sugarcane		14,000	...	9,100	...	18,300	8	12	
Total food-crops		177,900	...	108,700	...	107,400	5	113	
Tobacco		30,000	...	17,600	...	16,800	41	113	
Other <i>rabi</i> non-food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.		100,000	...	16,200	...	109,400	23	113	
Total non-food crops		130,000	...	33,800	...	126,000	31	113	
GRAND TOTAL		297,900	...	142,500	...	323,400	43	113	

The increase in the area sown, as well as in the outturn, is due to seasonal rainfall. The area sown with sugarcane has doubled this year. The outturn would have been more satisfactory had there been rain during the sowing season.

There has been a slight decrease in the area sown with tobacco. The weather was not very favourable for the crop at the sowing season.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by the District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Murshidabad	1,373,440	985,500	Wheat	130,000	92,000	150,500	3	15	The increase in area and outturn is due to the timely rainfall of the year. Sugarcane is cultivated in the <i>Karā</i> tracts only. Tobacco is cultivated to a limited extent.	
			Barley	55,000	41,200	61,200	3	15		
			Boro or summer rice	1,200	1,200	1,200	8	10		
			Gram	90,000	61,200	91,000	7	13		
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	95,000	86,300	96,000	7	15		
			Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops (<i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others).	3,000	2,000	3,000	8	15		
			Sugarcane	17,000	16,100	16,500	11	14		
			Total food-crops	381,200	300,800	419,400	5½	14½		
			Tobacco	900	800	800	11	14		
			Other <i>rabi</i> non-food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	1,000	500	1,000	4	15		
			Total non-food-crops	1,900	1,300	1,800	7½	14½		
			GRAND TOTAL	383,100	301,900	421,200	5½	14½		

Jessore	1,872,000	1,116,800	Wheat	...	...	...	2,600	700	2,100	2	9
			Barley	...	...	...	3,500	900	3,600	4	12
			Boro or summer rice	...	...	...	9,600	24,000	9,600	16	16
			Gram	...	...	...	13,000	3,500	14,800	6	13
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses	...	...	...	100,000	46,000	98,000	6	16
			Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons, and others	...	...	...	500	500	500	1	13
			Sugarcane	...	...	...	15,000	10,500	16,300	11	13
			Total food-crops	...	...	...	144,200	80,100	144,900	8	15
			Tobacco	...	...	...	21,000	8,800	23,100	11	14
			Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	...	...	...	80,000	63,000	77,200	8	15
			Total non-food crops	...	...	...	101,000	71,800	99,300	8	15
			GRAND TOTAL	...	...	...	245,200	160,900	244,200	8	15
			Boro or summer rice	...	...	...	85,000	85,800	85,000	12	15
			Gram	...	...	...	100	100	100	.....	12
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses	...	...	...	10,000	11,000	10,700	9	13
			Sugarcane	...	...	...	2,000	3,100	2,000	14	16
			Total food crops	...	...	...	97,100	100,000	97,800	12	15
			Tobacco	...	...	...	4,500	5,000	4,900	10	14
			Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	...	...	...	20,000	39,400	20,000	10	8
			Total non-food crops	...	...	...	24,500	64,400	24,900	10	9
			GRAND TOTAL	...	...	...	121,000	164,400	123,700	11	14

Sugarcane was much affected by deficiency of rainfall at the time of ploughing, sowing and growth of the plants. In respect of the other crops, rainfall was on the whole favourable.

Timely rainfall has increased the output. If there be more rain before harvesting, the output is expected to be 16 annas.

The Collector promises a further report in explanation of the decrease in the normal area and the area sown this year under 'Other *rabi* non-food crops.'

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Rajshahi	1,680,863	1,917,000	Wheat Barley Rice or summer rice Gram Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses. Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others. Sugarcane Total food-crops	75,000 15,000 100,000 17,000 90,000 800 7,000 304,800	60,400 2,200 11,600 13,600 86,800 500 4,900 303,000	78,900 11,300 118,900 13,600 40,000 800 8,000 317,100	6 4 13 6 7 10 9½ 10	Anna. 13 13 14 11 12 12 13 13½		
			Tobacco Ginseng Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds which are harvested in the spring, spices, oats, &c.	1,200 1,000 145,000	1,500 800 133,700	1,500 700 146,800	7 15 8	13 13 13		
			Total non-food crops	147,200	135,000	149,000	8	13		
			GRAND TOTAL	452,000	438,000	466,100	9½	13½		

Dhaka pur	...	4,522,089	1,672,500	Wheat	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	11	16	The decrease in outturn of food-crops and tobacco is due to late sowing.
				Gram	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	9	16	
				Other rabi cereals and pulses	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	10	16	
				Other rabi food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000	12	14	
				Sugarcane	24,000	24,000	24,500	24,500	13	18	
				Total food-crops	68,000	68,300	68,300	68,300	11	16	
				Tobacco	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14	14	
				Other rabi non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	100	100	100	100	10	16	
				Total non-food crops	14,100	14,100	14,100	14,100	14	14	
				GRAND TOTAL	82,100	82,400	82,400	82,400	11½	15½	
Jalpaiguri	...	1,594,400	1,004,200	Wheat	3,800	4,000	4,000	2,400	5	12	The deficiency of rainfall after sowing time has affected the outturn of these crops. The outturn of wheat is, however, a little better than what was originally expected.
				Barley	3,200	4,000	4,000	2,500	5	12	
				Other rabi cereals and pulses	20,000	20,000	20,000	19,800	11	12½	
				Other rabi food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others	5,700	5,600	5,100	5,100	12	12½	
				Sugarcane	3,000	3,000	3,300	3,300	10	12½	
				Total food-crops	55,100	37,400	33,000	33,000	9½	12½	
				Tobacco	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,100	11	12	
				Other rabi non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	10	11	
				Total non-food crops	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,100	10½	11½	
				GRAND TOTAL	155,100	161,600	161,600	163,100	10½	12	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented out-turn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Darjeeling	744,960	189,400	Wheat	5,100	5,100	5,100	8	11	The increase in the outturn is due to seasonable rainfall.	The decrease in the normal area under sugarcane is due to the result of enquiries made by the Settlement Officer.
			Barley	2,500	2,500	2,500	8	11		
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses	8,300	8,300	7,000	8	10		
			Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others	8,000	7,700	8,700	8	12		
			Sugarcane	400	2,800	400	12	12		
			Total food-crops	24,300	26,400	25,700	8	11		
			Tobacco	600	1,500	600	12	10		
			Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	7,000	7,600	7,600	9	9		
			Total non-food crops	7,600	9,100	8,200	9	9		
			GRAND TOTAL	31,900	35,500	31,900	8½	10½		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of rabi crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented out-turn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Pabna	1,176,969	889,500	Wheat Barley Boro or summer rice Gram Other rabi cereals and pulses. Sugarcane Total food-crops	16,000 16,000 7,500 16,000 125,000 66,000 246,500	11,000 12,500 7,500 13,500 101,500 66,000 213,000	16,000 14,000 7,500 14,500 102,000 66,000 290,500	Annas. 8 8 8 8 6 14 84	Annas. 16 14 11 14 15 13 144	The rainfall in the end of January and in February has produced a good result in the out-turn. Linseed, mustard and flax are shown in "other rabi non-food crops." A kind of worm, called <i>longa</i> , is said to have caused damage to the sugarcane crop of the low lands, and hence the outturn will probably be less than that of last year.	
			Tobacco Other rabi non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c. Total non-food-crops GRAND TOTAL	7,000 160,000 167,000 413,500	7,000 172,000 179,000 392,000	7,000 160,500 176,500 396,500	12 12 12 10	16 16 16 15		

Dates	...	1,750,450	1,029,700
Barley	...	1,900	1,900
Boro or summer rice	...	40,000	39,100
Gram	...	1,000	1,000
Other <i>wabi</i> cereals and pulses.	...	110,000	109,000
Other <i>wabi</i> food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others.	...	7,000	7,000
Sugarcane	...	25,000	25,300
			11
			11½
Total food-crops	...	184,900	186,100
			8
			11
Tobacco	...	12,000	10,600
Other <i>wabi</i> non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of lucerns (which are harvested in the spring), spices, cake, &c.	...	150,000	160,700
			11½
			11½
Total non-food crops	...	162,000	171,300
			9½
GRAND TOTAL	...	376,900	357,400
			8½
			11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
DISTRICT.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented out-turn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent the year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Mymensingh	4,052,480	2,405,700	Wheat	8,000	8,000	8,000	8	10	The seasonable rain has been very beneficial to the <i>rabi</i> crops in general.	
			Barley	13,100	13,100	13,100	8	14		
			Boro or summer rice ...	115,000	121,000	125,000	12	15		
			Gram	500	500	500	6	12		
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	244,000	244,100	244,100	10	13		
			Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others.	43,000	43,000	43,000	6	14		
			Sugarcane	35,000	33,600	33,600	10½	12		
			Total food-crops ...	408,600	403,900	403,900	10	13		
			Tobacco	43,000	42,200	42,400	8	11		
			Other <i>rabi</i> non food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	400,000	489,000	489,000	11	11		
			Total non-food crops ...	553,000	531,200	531,400	11	11		
			GRAND TOTAL ...	961,600	995,100	1,000,900	10½	12		

Particular	1,460,480	1,007,800	Wheat	...	...	...	3,000	2,200	1,800	5	16	The decrease in areas under wheat, barley, <i>boro</i> and other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops in column 7 is due to scarcity of seed. The rainfall in January last improved the state of all <i>rabi</i> crops, and at least an average crop all round is expected.
Barley			...	...	...	...	8,000	8,000	7,000	6	16	
<i>Boro</i> or summer rice			...	...	...	...	15,000	16,000	15,000	7	16	
Gram			...	...	...	...	8,000	8,000	8,000	6	16	
Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.			...	...	...	...	152,000	152,000	152,000	5	16	
Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> potatoes, yams, melons and others.			...	...	...	...	500	500	500	10	16	
Sugarcane			...	...	...	...	45,000	42,000	42,000	8	16	
Total food-crops			...	...	...	...	227,500	223,700	223,500	6	16	
Tobacco			...	...	...	...	500	500	500	6	16	
Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.			...	...	...	...	60,000	61,000	57,000	5	16	
Total non-food crops			...	...	...	...	60,500	61,500	57,500	5	16	
GRAND TOTAL			...	...	...	...	288,000	290,200	281,000	6	16	
<i>Boro</i> or summer rice	2,335,360	1,343,300	...	...	...	...	3,200	3,200	3,200	8	18	The increase in the outturn is due to sufficient rainfall at the sowing season. At some places pulses and oilseeds suffered from a flight of locusts. Otherwise crops are up to the average.
Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.			...	...	...	...	29,500	29,500	29,500	7	14	
Sugarcane			...	...	...	...	20,500	20,500	20,500	10	16	
Total food-crops			...	...	...	...	53,200	53,200	53,200	8½	15	
Tobacco			...	...	...	...	600	600	600	8	16	
Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.			...	...	...	...	70,000	60,100	60,100	8	14	
Total non-food crops			...	...	...	...	70,600	69,700	69,700	8	14	
GRAND TOTAL			...	...	...	...	123,800	122,900	122,900	8½	14½	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Tippera	1,594,340	1,187,300	Boro or summer rice Gram Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, e.g., peas, lentils, yams, melons and others. Sugarcane Total food-crops Tobacco Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats &c. Total non-food-crops GRAND TOTAL Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses Sugarcane Total food-crops Other <i>rabi</i> non-food-crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	18,000 500 60,000 500 14,000 91,000 9,000 76,000 85,000 176,000 67,000 18,000 85,000 23,000	15,800 400 57,500 400 12,500 86,900 8,300 75,500 84,200 171,100 67,100 17,900 85,000 20,700	16,500 400 57,500 500 12,200 87,400 8,000 75,200 83,900 170,600 67,100 17,900 85,000 23,400	Annas. 14 6 9 12 13 10½ 10 11 11 10½ 8 8 8 7½	Annas. 16 10 13 13 13 13 12 16 15½ 14½ 9 9 9 10	The increase of outturn this year is due to timely rainfall. The sugarcane and tobacco crops are grown here to a small extent and are of very inferior quality.	
Noakhali	1,052,800	818,800								

Chittagong	1,120,880	351,500	Total non-food crops	25,000	20,700	28,400	7½	10		
			GRAND TOTAL	110,000	105,700	113,400	8	9½		
			Boro or summer rice	95,000	92,400	95,000	7	6		The cyclone and storm-wave of the 24th October 1897, damaged the crops and delayed their cultivation.
			Gram	1,300	1,300	1,300	6	14		
			Other rabi cereals and pulses	1,000	1,500	1,700	7½	8		
			Other rabi food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others	12,000	12,000	12,000	6	8		
			Sugarcane	5,000	5,900	5,000	7	4		
			Total food-crops	115,900	113,100	115,000	7	8		
			Tobacco	11,000	11,300	10,000	10	10		
			Other rabi non-food crops e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	22,000	22,000	21,000	7½	8		
			Total non-food crops	33,000	33,300	31,000	8½	8		
			GRAND TOTAL	145,900	146,400	146,000	7	8		
Patna	1,323,640	293,500	Wheat	105,000	102,000	106,400	12½	15½	The rainfall being opportune throughout, the outturn has been this year far better than last year's. The Sub-Deputy Opium Agent reports that the poppy crop was not unfavourably affected by rainfall either at sowing or ploughing time. High winds have also done very little damage this year.	No explanation has been given of the large decrease in other rabi non-food crops.
			Barley	65,000	67,400	65,000	11	15½		
			Boro or summer rice	1,200	1,200	1,000	12	14		
			Gram	71,000	73,600	67,100	12	15½		
			Other rabi cereals and pulses	110,000	111,700	105,000	12½	15½		
			Other rabi food crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others	10,000	13,400	12,400	11	15½		
			Sugarcane	3,000	3,000	3,200	12	15½		
			Total food-crops	356,200	372,300	350,700	12	15½		
			Tobacco	2,000	2,000	2,000	11	14		
			Opium (poppy)	19,000	19,300	19,500	16	15½		
			Other rabi non-food crops e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	60,000	66,100	62,500	12½	16		
			Total non-food crops	81,000	87,400	81,000	13½	15½		
			GRAND TOTAL	447,200	459,700	431,700	12½	15½		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
DISTRICT.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of rabi crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Gaya	3,015,680	2,207,600	Wheat Barley Gram Other rabi cereals and pulses. Other rabi food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others. Sugarcane	131,500 70,000 86,000 1,175,000 10,000 39,000 511,500	132,200 71,500 88,000 1,72,900 10,900 25,500 615,000	142,200 69,500 96,000 175,200 10,900 28,500 622,300	Annas. 16 16 16 16 16 16 15½	Annas. 16 16 16 16 16 16 16	The increase in area shown in column 7 over that shown in column 6 is reported to be due to timely rainfall at the time of ploughing and sowing of the crops. There has been an extended cultivation of potato throughout the district.	
			Opium (poppy) Other rabi non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	51,600 170,000	51,800 171,900	52,000 174,600	16 15	12 15		
			Total non-food crops	221,000	223,700	226,600	15½	14½		
			GRAND TOTAL	733,500	738,700	748,900	15½	15½		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented out-turn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Champann	2,569,840	1,423,000	Wheat Barley Gram Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses. Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others. Sugarcane Total food-crops ...	118,000 62,000 122,000 63,000 29,000 20,000 415,000	87,000 60,000 122,000 56,000 28,000 20,000 383,000	118,000 102,000 123,000 63,000 28,000 20,000 415,000	Annas. 12 14 14 11 7 14 12	Annas. 19 19 19 19 20 19 19	Plentiful rain at the sowing time has improved prospects greatly and there is promise of an excellent outturn.	
			Opium (poppy) Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, casta, &c. Total non-food crops ... GRAND TOTAL ...	60,000 3,000 63,000 478,000	50,000 3,000 53,000 416,000	60,000 3,100 63,100 480,000	12 12 15 15	15 19 16 19		

Muzaffarpur	1,928,200	1,520,800	Wheat	71,000	71,000	71,000	11	18	The weather from the ploughing and sowing time has been very favourable, and hence the out-turn of the crop is expected to exceed 16-annas.
			Barley	305,000	305,300	305,300	10	19	
			Boro or summer rice	7,000	7,000	7,000	8	16	
			Gram	37,000	36,900	36,900	14	18	
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	280,000	277,300	277,300	12	18	
			Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others.	88,000	88,000	88,000	12	20	
			Sugarcane	9,000	9,100	9,100	10	16	
			Total food-crops	787,000	789,500	789,500	11	19	
			Tobacco	18,000	17,300	17,300	12	16	
			Opium (poppy)	15,000	15,500	15,000	12	16	
Darbhanga	2,134,400	1,820,100	Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	100,000	106,500	106,500	12	20	The weather being favourable, a large area has been sown with poppy, and hence the area under other non-food crops has fallen short.
			Total non-food crops	133,000	137,300	137,000	12	17	
			GRAND TOTAL	920,000	926,700	925,500	11	18½	
			Wheat	100,000	90,000	100,000	13	15½	
			Barley	70,000	46,400	70,100	12	15½	
			Gram	42,000	37,000	43,500	12	15½	
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	150,000	137,300	146,400	15	16	
			Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons, and others.	80,000	67,300	81,000	15	16	
			Sugarcane	73,000	73,000	72,800	14	15½	
			Total food-crops	815,000	680,000	683,700	15	15½	
			Tobacco	55,000	65,500	53,600	16	15½	The increase in area and outturn is due to the abundance of moisture at the sowing season.
			Opium (poppy)	8,000	1,800	8,100	12	17	
			Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	150,000	133,900	146,500	13	15½	
			Total non-food crops	203,000	201,200	203,200	14	15½	
			GRAND TOTAL	738,000	681,200	726,900	14½	15½	
			Wheat	71,000	71,000	71,000	11	18	
			Barley	305,000	305,300	305,300	10	19	
			Boro or summer rice	7,000	7,000	7,000	8	16	
			Gram	37,000	36,900	36,900	14	18	
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	280,000	277,300	277,300	12	18	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented this year's outturn?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Monghyr	2,509,440	1,583,800	Wheat Barley Gram Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses. Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others. Sugarcane Total food-crops Tobacco Opium (poppy) Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c. Total non-food crops	100,000 120,000 105,300 287,500 600,000 50,000 10,000 1,160,000	97,900 105,300 287,500 632,000 9,500 5,500 1,137,000	99,900 137,800 133,400 279,000 54,900 12,100 717,700	Annas. 11½ 10½ 11½ 12 10 13½ 11½	Annas. 14 14 14 14 15 15 14	The estimated outturn of all crops is greater than it has been for many years. Poppy has been damaged to some extent by rainfall and west winds in February.	The great reduction in the areas sown with gram and other <i>rabi</i> cereals this year is not explained. It is probably due to a revision of the figures, as those which indicate the normal and last year's sowings appear too high.
			GRAND TOTAL	11,222,000	1,184,700	897,200	12	14		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented out-turn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officers.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Malda	1,216,640	811,500	Wheat	60,000	47,000	85,500	Annas. 12	Annas. 16	The outturn of this year is better owing to timely rainfall during the sowing and growing seasons.	
			Barley	25,000	24,000	27,000	12	16		
			Boro or summer rice ..	6,000	7,000	7,100	16	17		
			Gram	7,000	7,000	7,100	10	14		
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	35,000	33,000	80,800	12	16		
			Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others.	1,500	1,500	1,500	10	16		
			Sugarcane	5,000	4,000	4,000	12	14		
			Total food-crops ..	139,500	183,500	212,500	12	16		
			Tobacco	10,500	10,000	11,000	16	17		
			Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseed (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	8,000	6,000	8,500	12	14		
			Total non-food crops ..	18,500	16,000	19,500	14	15½		
			GRAND TOTAL ..	215,000	199,000	232,000	12	16		

Fonthal gans.	Par.	8,550,160	1,827,300	Wheat	...	14,600	8,300	11,900	8	144	
Outback	...	2,325,120	1,161,200	Wheat	...	14,600	8,300	11,900	8	144	<p>The figure shewing the normal area for <i>boro</i> rice is probably too high, although the previous figure has already been reduced.</p> <p>The general increase in area and outturn is due to favourable weather. The decrease in area under summer rice is alleged to be due to want of rain. It will probably be an average crop. The rain in November last did some damage to wheat, barley and other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.</p>
				Barley	...	15,000	10,700	12,700	8½	144	
				<i>Boro</i> or summer rice	...	1,100	600	600	8	14	
				Gram	...	22,000	20,600	19,700	9½	144	
				Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	...	72,000	63,000	70,000	9	138	
				Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others.	...	2,000	2,000	2,000	10	14	
				Sugarcane	...	16,000	15,700	15,700	11½	144	
				Total food-crops	...	142,700	120,900	132,600	9½	14	
				Tobacco	...	600	600	600	10	14	
				Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	...	1,300	1,100	1,300	6	16	
				Total non-food crops	...	1,900	1,700	1,900	7½	15½	
				GRAND TOTAL	...	144,600	122,600	134,500	9½	14	
				Wheat	...	1,500	1,000	2,100	4	12	
				Barley	...	1,000	600	800	4	12	
				<i>Boro</i> or summer rice	...	47,000	51,700	53,600	12	16	
				Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.	...	100,000	91,500	97,900	7	14	
				Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others.	...	3,300	3,300	3,000	13	12	<p>The figure shewing the normal area for <i>boro</i> rice is probably too high, although the previous figure has already been reduced.</p> <p>The general increase in area and outturn is due to favourable weather. The decrease in area under summer rice is alleged to be due to want of rain. It will probably be an average crop. The rain in November last did some damage to wheat, barley and other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses.</p>
				Sugarcane	...	5,000	4,300	4,600	9	16	
				Total food-crops	...	157,800	132,400	147,000	7½	14	
				Tobacco	...	7,500	6,200	10,300	13	16	
				Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	...	29,000	22,600	25,900	11	16	
				Total non-food crops	...	36,500	28,800	36,200	11½	16	
				GRAND TOTAL	...	194,300	161,200	183,200	8	14½	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
DISTRICT.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of rabi crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented out-turn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Balesore	1,322,404	837,100	Wheat Boro or summer rice Other rabi cereals and pulses. Other rabi food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others. Sugarcane Total food-crops	500 1,300 23,000 5,000 4,000 33,800	300 4,000 21,700 5,300 4,000 35,200	100 400 21,000 5,400 8,900 31,400	Annas. 8 12 9 9 8 10	Annas. 10 9 14 16 15 13		
			Tabacco Other rabi non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c. Total non-food crops GRAND TOTAL	100 9,000 9,100 42,900	100 8,600 8,700 43,000	100 8,800 8,900 40,300	10 9 9 10	16 16 16 14		
Angul and Khondmala.	1,076,840	247,600	Wheat Gram Sugarcane Total food-crops	100 48,000 2,000 50,100	100 24,000 2,000 26,100	100 48,000 2,000 50,100	6 2 13 21	16 16 16 16	The year was favourable to the rabi crops.	

Puri	1,552,720	812,300	Tobacco	1,000	1,000	1,000	12	16
			Other <i>rahi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c	35,000	25,000	38,000	12	16
			Total non-food crops	36,000	26,000	39,000	12	16
			GRAND TOTAL	89,100	52,100	83,140	12	16
			Boro or summer rice	6,500	5,000	6,000	12	12
			Gram	5,500	4,900	6,000	4	18
			Other <i>rahi</i> cereals and pulses	60,000	30,800	62,200	8	11
			Other <i>rahi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others	1,000	200	900	6	7
			Sugarcane	3,500	3,000	4,000	12	12
			Total food-crops	76,500	43,900	79,100	8	11
Hazaribagh	4,493,440	2,473,500	Tobacco	4,000	4,000	4,000	12	12
			Other <i>rahi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c	8,000	6,400	8,000	5	10
			Total non-food crops	12,000	10,400	12,000	6	10
			GRAND TOTAL	88,500	54,300	91,100	72	11
			Wheat	8,100	8,000	8,000	9	16
			Barley	1,100	1,100	1,100	9	16
			Gram	50,000	50,000	50,000	10	16
			Other <i>rahi</i> cereals and pulses	74,000	73,700	73,700	9	16
			Other <i>rahi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others	3,000	3,100	3,800	11	16
			Sugarcane	32,000	32,100	32,100	12	16
			Total food-crops	168,200	168,600	168,300	10	16
			Tobacco	800	800	800	8	16
			Opium (poppy)	5,000	4,900	4,900	12	16
			Other <i>rahi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c	275,000	276,400	276,400	16	16
			Total non-food crops	280,800	282,100	283,100	15	16
			GRAND TOTAL	440,000	450,700	450,400	13	16

The season was fairly favourable to most of these crops. Want of rain during the sowing season has had a slightly prejudicial effect on mung, chana, sugarcane and the oilseed crops.

The increase in the outturn is due to favourable rainfall.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
District.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of <i>rabi</i> crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified <i>rabi</i> crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented out-turn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Lohardaga	4,563,000	2,838,800	Wheat Barley Boro or summer rice Gram Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses. Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others. Sugarcane	1,800 200 3,000 1,000 20,000 600 200	500 700 1,000 10,000 300	1,400 300 8,000 20,000 850 200	Annas. 12 6 6 6 6	Annas. 13 13 13 13 13 10	Owing to the favourable condition of the season, the area sown this year and the outturn are greater than those of last year.	
			Total food-crops	25,600	11,500	25,700	6	13		
			Other <i>rabi</i> non-food-crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	75,000	40,100	70,100	5	13		
			Total non-food crops	75,000	40,100	70,100	5	12		
			GRAND TOTAL	100,600	52,000	95,800	54	13		

Palawan	Wheat ...	768,000	3,159,200	14,700	4,600	14,250	5	11	Low outturn is due to want of rain at the sowing season. There was no rain from October 1897 to 11th February 1898.
	Barley ...			12,000	8,300	11,900	8	11	
	Gram ...			35,000	12,800	30,400	8	13	
	Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses, <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others, ...			30,000	11,100	17,000	9	10	
	Sugarcane ...			5,000	5,000	5,500	6	12	
	Total food-crops ...			100,000	3,200	99,000	12	12	
				187,700	44,900	178,700	8½	11½	
	Opium (poppy) ...			700	600	700	13	14	
	Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.			33,000	29,700	31,800	6½	10	
	Total non-food crops ...			53,700	30,300	32,500	6½	10	
Manbhum	GRAND TOTAL ...			231,400	75,200	211,200	8½	11½	The prospects have throughout been favourable.
	Wheat ...	1,425,400	2,654,080	5,000	1,600	3,200	3½	17	
	Barley ...			3,200	100	3,200	7	17	
	<i>Boro</i> or summer rice ...			100	.....	100	.....	20
	Gram ...			2,600	2,600	2,600	3½	17	
	Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses, <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others, ...			25,000	45,800	56,800	3½	20	
	Sugarcane ...			200	100	300	6	18	
	Total food-crops ...			29,000	2,400	19,100	8	18	
				86,100	62,600	85,300	5	19	
	Tobacco ...			4,000	400	3,700	7	18	
Palawan	Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.			80,000	6,800	78,200	5	19	
	Total non-food crops ...			84,000	7,200	81,900	5	19	
	GRAND TOTAL ...			170,100	69,800	167,200	5	19	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
DISTRICT.	Total area of district in acres.	Total area in district estimated to be under cultivation in acres.	Names of rabi crops.	Approximate normal area under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Approximate area last year under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Estimated area this year under each specified rabi crop in acres.	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas represented outturn last year?	Taking 16 annas to represent the average outturn, how many annas will represent this year's outturn?	Remarks by District Officer.	Remarks by the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal.
Singbhum ..	2,401,999	1,182,100	Wheat Barley Boro or summer rice Gram Other rabi cereals and pulses. Other rabi food-crops, e.g., potatoes, yams, melons and others. Sugarcane Total food-crops ...	2,500 600 600 5,000 110,000 1,400 1,000 121,100	1,600 200 25 3,800 11,500 1,400 500 19,000	2,000 800 800 5,000 113,500 1,400 1,000 125,000	Annas. 8 4 1 4 7 4 4 6	Annas. 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16		
			Tobacco Other rabi non-food crops, e.g., cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c. Total non-food crops ... GRAND TOTAL ...	1,000 12,000 13,000 134,100	1,800 3,800 5,700 24,700	1,000 11,700 12,800 137,800	7 4 4½ 5½	16 16 16 16		

Total Bengal	90,784,156	57,424,900	Wheat	1,517,800	1,300,100	1,674,200	10	16½
			Barley	1,206,600	1,113,900	1,321,400	11	17
			Boro or summer rice	582,300	672,300	604,400	9½	14½
			Gram	1,348,000	1,231,300	1,182,800	9	15
			Other <i>rabi</i> cereals and pulses	4,108,100	3,780,900	3,740,500	10½	16½
			Other <i>rabi</i> food-crops, <i>e.g.</i> , potatoes, yams, melons and others.	673,400	655,100	699,800	10½	16½
			Sugarcane	969,300	833,000	962,000	12½	15
			Total food-crops ...	10,403,400	9,646,600	9,985,100	10½	16½
			Tobacco	650,400	662,900	646,900	11½	14
			Opium (poppy)	236,300	253,100	236,200	13	14
			Ganja	1,000	800	700	15	13
			Other <i>rabi</i> non-food crops, <i>e.g.</i> , cotton (early and late), all kinds of oilseeds (which are harvested in the spring), spices, oats, &c.	3,352,400	3,099,100	3,366,400	11	14
			Total non-food crops ...	4,948,100	3,985,900	4,249,200	11	14
			GRAND TOTAL ...	14,649,500	13,632,500	14,234,300	10½	15½

N.B.—Twenty annas represent a bumper crop, 16 annas an average crop, 12 annas three-fourths of an average crop, and so on.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

For the week ending the 25th April 1898.

Burdwan.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·63, Kalna ·79, Katwa ·84, Raniganj ·20. Weather hot. More rain wanted for ploughing. Fields being manured. *Aus* paddy being sown in the Kalna subdivision. Fodder and water sufficient. Cattle-pox reported from a few villages. Common rice selling as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar ...	13 to 16	} per rupee.
Kalna ...	13 to 13 $\frac{5}{8}$	
Katwa ...	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	
Raniganj ...	14	

Birbhum.—Rainfall at Sadar ·12, Rampur Hât 1·14. Weather very hot. Rain much facilitated ploughing in the subdivision. Manuring still going on. Prices stationary. Fodder sufficient.

Bankura.—Rainfall at Bankura ·10, Vishnupur 2·06. Weather occasionally cloudy and very hot. Transplantation of sugarcane has commenced. Fodder and water sufficient. No cattle-disease. Price of common rice 15 seers per rupee at Sadar and Vishnupur.

Midnapore.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·05, Contai 1·62, Tamluk 1·65. Prospects of *boro* paddy, indigo and *til* good. Prices of common rice:—

	Srs.	
Sadar ...	12	} per rupee.
Contai ...	15	
Tamluk ...	11 $\frac{7}{8}$	

Hooghly.—Rainfall at Sadar ·50, Serampore ·64, Jahanabad 1·18. More rain wanted for tillage. Fodder and water sufficient. Cattle-disease reported from some places. Common rice sells from 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Howrah.—Rainfall at Sadar ·75, Ulubaria 1·33. Weather hot with strong southerly wind. Harvesting of *boro* at Ulubaria continues. The recent rain has facilitated ploughing of lands. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells at 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

24-Parganas.—Rainfall at Sadar ·15, Barasat 1·01, Basirhat ·41, Diamond Harbour 1·22. Weather hot. No crops on the ground. Some useful rain has fallen, but more rain is wanted for tillage of lands. A few cases of cattle-disease reported from thana Mathurapur. Fodder and water sufficient in all places except Barasat, where want of water is beginning to be felt. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar ...	10 to 13	} per rupee.
Barasat ...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Basirhat ...	13 $\frac{7}{8}$	
Diamond Harbour ...	12	

Nadia.—Rainfall at Sadar ·63, Kushtia 1·92, Meherpur 2·41, Chuadanga 1·28, Ranaghat 1·09. The rain has facilitated ploughing and sowing of *aus* and jute, and has improved the condition of indigo and sugarcane. Common rice selling at 10 to 14 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient. Cattle-disease in thana Chakdah.

Murshidabad.—Rainfall at Sadar 2·14, Kandi 2·35, Jangipur ·88. Weather hot. The rain has done good to the cultivation of the *bhadoi* crops. Plantation of sugarcane going on. State of indigo and mulberry hopeful. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder sufficient. More rain wanted for the cultivation of crops. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar ...	12	} per rupee.
Kandi ...	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Jangipur ...	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	

Jessore.—Rainfall at Sadar nil, Magura nil, Jhenida ·38, Narail ·61, Bangaon ·07. Weather hot, cloudy and windy. Cultivation going on. More rain badly wanted. No cattle-disease reported. Fodder reported to be insufficient, and water somewhat scarce in places in the Jhenida subdivision. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	12	} per rupee.
Jhenida	11	
Magura	11½	
Narail	11¾	
Bangaon	12 to 13	

Khulna.—Rainfall at Sadar ·43, Bagerhat ·26, Satkhira ·47. Weather hot and windy. *Boro* being harvested. Cultivation of *aus* commenced. Water and fodder available. Common rice sells as follows:—

	Srs.	
Sadar	11 to 13	} per rupee.
Satkhira	11¾	
Bagerhat	12¾	

Rajshahi.—Rainfall at Sadar ·60, Nator 1·80, Naugaon ·84. Weather hot. More rain wanted. Prospects of crops good. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water available. Price of common rice ranges from 11 to 14 seers per rupee.

Dinajpur.—Average rainfall 1·62. Weather seasonable. Sowing of *bhadoi* paddy and jute going on. Condition of cattle good. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice selling at 14 seers per rupee.

Jalpaiguri.—Rainfall at Sadar ·39, Alipur Duars ·63. Days hot, nights pleasant. Sowing of *bhadoi* and jute going on. Harvesting of tobacco finished. No want of fodder and drinking-water. Common rice sells from 11 to 16 seers per rupee.

Darjeeling.—Rainfall at Darjeeling 2·08, Kurseong 3·42, Siliguri ·37. Weather seasonable. *Hills*—Indian-corn and potatoes progressing well. *Terai*—*Bhadoi* and jute being sown, and sugarcane being planted. Coarse rice sells as follows:—

Hills—10 to 12 seers per rupee.
Terai—13 to 15 „ „ „

Bhutta sells from 17 to 30 seers per rupee.

Rangpur.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·27, Gaibanda ·73, Kurigram 1·84, Nilphamari ·47. Ploughing for jute and sowing of *aus* continue. Weeding of *aus* going on. Prospects good. Common rice selling at 12 to 15 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient. Good drinking-water reported scarce in places in Gaibanda.

Bogra.—Average rainfall ·81. Sowing of *aus* and jute commenced. Fodder and water ample. Common rice selling from 11½ to 14½ seers per rupee.

Pabna.—Rainfall at Sadar ·32, Sirajganj 1·57. Weather hot and windy. Crop prospects good. *China* is being harvested. Common rice 10 to 12 seers per rupee.

Dacca.—Rainfall at Sadar ·77, Manikganj 1·77, Narainganj ·85. Weather hot. Sowing of *aus* and jute commenced. Harvesting of *boro* proceeding. Fodder available. No cattle-disease. Want of good drinking-water in the interior. Common rice 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Mymensingh.—Rainfall at Sadar 2·00, Jamalpur ·60, Tangail 3·16, Kishorganj ·48. Weather cloudy and oppressive. *Aus* and jute being sown. *Boro* paddy being reaped. Rain is badly wanted. A shower in Tangail did a lot of good. Fodder and water-supply sufficient. No cattle-disease. Rice selling at an average of 11 seers per rupee.

Faridpur.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·32, Goalundo 1·20, Madaripur ·32. Weather hot. Strong wind blowing from south-east. *Aus* paddy being sown. Prospects favourable. Common rice sells at 10½ to 12 seers per rupee. Fodder and water sufficient.

Backergunge.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·08. Weather warm. Rain has done good to crops. More rain wanted. Common rice sells from 9 to 14 seers per rupee.

Tippera.—No rain. Weather very hot. Sowing retarded for want of rain. Scarcity of water reported from some places. Fodder sufficient. Rice sells from 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Noakhali.—Rainfall nil. Ploughing continues. Rain much wanted. No cattle-disease. Condition of fodder and water getting poor. Price of rice 10 to 14 seers per rupee.

Chittagong.—Rainfall nil. Weather seasonable. *Rabi* harvesting still going on. Outturn below the average. Rain wanted. Drinking-water scarce in the wave-swept area. Rice selling at 11 seers per rupee.

Patna.—No rain. *Rabi* harvest almost finished. Sugarcane and *china* doing well. Prices almost stationary. In Patna common rice (new) sells at 15½ seers per rupee. Fodder and water for cattle sufficient.

Gaya.—No rain. Sugarcane and *china* continue good. *Mahua* flowers being gathered. Fodder and water sufficient. Rice sells at 14 seers, barley 20 seers, gram 19 seers, *arhar* 19 seers, and wheat 13½ seers per rupee.

Shahabad.—No rain. Weather hot. Threshing of *rabi* continues. Sugarcane is being irrigated. Cattle-disease reported from some places in Sasaram. Fodder and water sufficient. Prices stationary.

Saran.—No rain. Weather seasonable. *China* and indigo doing well. Fields being prepared for *bhadoi* crops. Fodder and water sufficient. Average prices are—common rice 12·14 seers and *makai* 21·12 seers, against 9·2 seers and 10·5 seers respectively last year.

Champaran.—No rain. *Rabi* harvest finished. *Bhadoi* sowing just commenced. Preparation of land for *bhadoi* and *aghani* in progress. Common rice and maize sell at 12½ and 21½ seers per rupee respectively, against average 15 and 20½ seers.

Muzaffarpur.—Rainfall at Sadar nil. Threshing of *rabi* crops still in progress. Prospects good. Prices are—common rice 10 to 13 seers, wheat 14 seers, barley 23 seers, *makai* 19 seers, gram 16 to 17 seers, and *rahar* 18 to 20 seers per rupee.

Darbhanga.—Rainfall at Sadar ·12, Samastipur ·13, Madhubani ·03. Weather hot. Preparation of land for *bhadoi* going on. Early paddy and *mung* looking well. More rain wanted for sowing of *bhadoi*. Fodder and water available. Common rice sells at 11 seers per rupee at Sadar.

Monghyr.—Rainfall at Sadar ·03, Jamui ·27, Begusarai nil. Weather hot. Sugarcane being watered. No other standing crops. Cattle-disease reported from Begusarai subdivision. Rice sells as follows:—

Monghyr	...	...	...	11 to 13 seers per rupee.
Begusarai	...	...	...	11 to 12 " "
Jamui	...	...	...	13 " "

Purnea.—Rainfall at Sadar nil, Kishanganj ·32, Araria ·09. The recent rain was of much use for agricultural operations. Lands are being ploughed for *bhadoi* crops. A few cases of cattle-pox reported from Araria subdivision. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells at 15 seers per rupee at Sadar, Kishanganj, and Araria.

Bhagalpur.—Rainfall at Banka ·47, Madhipura 1·22, Supaul ·67 in preceding week. Weather hot. The rainfall has benefited the standing sugarcane. *Rabi* harvesting practically over. Lands being prepared for *bhadoi* sowings. No cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient. Price of common rice stationary.

Malda.—No rain. Weather hot. Threshing of *rabi* crops not yet finished. Rain still wanted for cultivation of *bhadoi* crops and jute. Common rice selling at 13½ seers per rupee. Fodder sufficient.

Sonthal Parganas.—Rain in all subdivisions except Godda. District average rainfall ·82. The rain has done good to mango and sugarcane and to stock of fodder. *Mahua* harvest practically over; good outturn. Price of rice 13½ to 14 seers, and of maize 16 to 22 seers per rupee. Cattle-disease in Pakour only.

Cuttack.—Rainfall at Sadar 1·80, Jajpur ·64, Kendrapara 2·36, Banki 1·76. Weather cloudy and hot. *Dalua* ripening and being harvested in places. New sugarcane in progress. Tobacco being gathered. Condition of cattle generally good. Fodder sufficient. Common rice selling as follows:—

				Srs. ch.	
Cuttack	14 7	} per rupee.
Jajpur	...	...	...	18 6
Kendrapara	...	...	...	18 6
Banki	...	...	...	16 13

Balasore.—Rainfall at Sadar nil. *Dahua* being harvested. Cotton flowering. Sugarcane growing well. Ploughing commenced. Price of rice varies from 14 to 19 seers per rupee in the interior. Rice sells at 13 and 16 seers per rupee at Balasore and Bhadrak respectively. Fodder and water sufficient.

Angul.—Rainfall at Sadar ·60. Ploughing of paddy lands commenced. Coarse rice selling at 20 seers per rupee at Angul and 12 seers at Khondmals.

Puri.—Rainfall at Puri ·83, Khurda 1·56. *Dahua* paddy being reaped. *Mung* being harvested. State of sugarcane, cotton, and other miscellaneous crops generally good. Cultivation going on for next *sarad* crop. Cattle-disease not reported. Fodder and water sufficient. Common rice sells as follows :—

				Srs.	ch.	
Puri	15 12	} per rupee.
Khurda	14 7	
				...	15 7	
Interior of district	19 11	

Hazaribagh.—Rainfall at Sadar ·51. Conditions favourable. Rice sells at 11 to 13 seers per rupee.

Lohardaga.—*Mahua* gathering continues. Rice sells at Ranchi 12 seers, and in the interior from 12 to 16 seers per rupee. Cattle-disease continues. Fodder and water sufficient. Grain in stock sufficient.

Palamau.—Slight rain in east and west of district accompanied by hail. Weather very hot. *Rabi* harvest over; outturn 12 annas. *Mahua* still falling, but in small quantities. Rice selling at 12 to 13 seers per rupee. Slight cattle-disease. Fodder and water sufficient.

Manbhum.—Rainfall at Sadar ·50, Gobindpur ·03. Weather seasonable. Prospects of crops on the ground good. Cattle-disease reported from thana Purulia. Fodder and water sufficient. Average price of common rice at Sadar 15 seers and at Gobindpur 13½ seers per rupee. Supply sufficient.

Singbhum.—Rainfall ·52. Rice plentiful, and the price is from 12 to 16 seers per rupee.

General Summary.—There was rain over a considerable part of the Province during the week. Ploughing and early sowings are in progress, but more rain is required in parts. The young crops of sugarcane, indigo and *china* millet are doing well. The spring rice is being harvested, and the gathering of the *mahua* flowers in the Chota Nagpur and Bhagalpur Divisions is almost over. There was a slight rise in the price of rice in a few districts, but on the whole the prices remained practically the same as in the previous week. Cattle-disease is reported from places in Burdwan, Hooghly, the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Shahabad, Monghyr, Purnea, the Sonthal Parganas, Lohardaga, Palamau and Manbhum. Fodder-supply is generally sufficient. Scarcity of drinking-water is reported from places in Central and Eastern Bengal.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

The 26th April 1898.

M. FINUCANE,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT (retail) of Food-grains and Salt in the Head.

Number.		DISTRICTS.	QUANTITIES PER RUPEE IN																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
			WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			JOWAR OR CHOLU (Sorghum Vulgare.)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
			Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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- A. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Kalna 10 seers (panga) and 11 seers (karkatch); Katwa 10 seers 15 chitaks (karkatch); Raniganj 10½ seers.
- B. At Rampur Hat the retail price of salt is 11½ seers per rupee.
- C. At Vishnupur the retail price of salt is 9½ seers per rupee.
- D. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Tamluk 10 seers (panga); Ghatal 10½ seers (panga); Contai return not received.
- E. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Serampore 10½ seers; Jahanabad 10 seers 10½ chitaks.
- F. At Ulubaria the retail price of salt is 10 seers 10½ chitaks per rupee.
- G. In the marts in the interior of the district the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Chetla 10½ seers; Barasat 10 seers 10 chitaks; Baduria 10½ seers; Magrahat 10 seers.
- H. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Kushtia (Bahadurkhali) 10½ seers (panga); Chuadanga 10 seers (panga); Meherpur 10 seers (karkatch); Ranaghat 10½ seers (crushed).
- I. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Lalbagh 11 seers; Kandi 10½ seers; Jangipur 10½ seers.
- J. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are:—Jhenida 9 seers 1 chitak; Magura 9½ seers; Narail 8 seers 11 chitaks; Bengaon 9 seers 2 chitaks.

S OF 80 TOLABS.

MA OR CUMBU.
typhod.
(*sum.*)

MARUA OR RAGI.
(*Eleusine Corocana*)

Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	Corresponding re- turn of last year.
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Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch. S. Ch.

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KANGNI OR KAKUN,
ITALIAN MILLET.
(*Setaria Italica*.)

GRAM, CHAN
CHHOLA, KADA
OR SUNAGA
(*Cler aridum*)

Present return.
Next preceding re-
turn.
Corresponding re-
turn of last year.

Present return.
Next preceding re-
turn.
Corresponding

S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.
...	14	8	...	...	...	...
...	16	0	16	0	10	...
...	13	12	13	8	20	...
...	11	0	10	8	10	...
...	13	0	12	0	10	...
...	10	0	9	0	9	...

...	...	...	...	12	8	12	0	9	...
10	0	10	10	8	0	13	5	11	7
...	...	...	...	15	9	16	0	11	7
...	...	...	...	16	12	17	0	11	12
...	...	...	...	12	0	13	4	9	...
...	...	...	...	7	8	7	8	9	...

...	...	...	...	17	8	18	0	12	...
...	...	...	...	11	...	9	12	10	11
...	...	...	...	13	0	9	4	10	...
...	...	...	...	8	0	8	0	8	0
...	...	...	...	11	0	10	0	10	0
...	...	...	...	15	0	12	0	15	0
...	...	...	...	16	8	15	0	12	0

...	...	...	...	11	0	10	4	10	0
...	...	...	...	8	0	8	0	8	0
...
...	...	...	...	7	8	7	8	9	...

quarters Station Bazars of the Districts of Bengal on the 15th April 1893.

INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE. (Zea mays.)			ARHAR OR THUR, CADJAN PEA. (Cajanus Indicus.)			SALT.			WHOLESALE PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 SEERS.			DISTRICTS.	Number.
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.		
S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	A.	P.	R.	
...	Burdwan.	1
...	Birbhum.	2
...	Bankura.	3
...	Midnapore.	4
...	Hooghly.	5
...	Howrah.	6
...	24-Parganas	7
...	Calcutta.	8
...	Nadia.	9
...	Murshidabad.	10
...	Jessore.	11
...	Khulna.	12
...	Rajshahi.	13
...	Dinajpur.	14
...	Jalpaiguri.	15
...	Darjeeling.	16
...	Rangpur.	17
...	Bogra.	18
...	Pabna.	19
...	Dacca.	20
...	Mymensingh.	21
...	Faridpur.	22
...	Backergunge.	23

- K. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Bagerhat 10 seers ; Satkhira 9½ seers.
 L. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt (panga) per rupee are :—Nowgong 9½ seers ; Nator 9 seers.
 M. In Alipur Duars the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
 N. At Kurseong and Siliguri the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
 O. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Gaibanda 10 seers ; Karigram 8 seers ; Nilphamari 9 seers.
 P. At Sirajganj the retail price of salt (panga) is 10 seers per rupee.
 Q. In the marts in the interior of the district the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Madanganj 10 seers 10 chitaks ; Manikganj 9 seers, Munshirhat 10 seers 10 chitaks, Mirkadam 10 seers 10 chitaks.
 R. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Kishoreganj 9 seers 6 chitaks ; Jamalpur 9 seers 7 chitaks ; Kagmari 8 seers ; Netrokona 8 seers.
 S. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Goalundo 10 seers (panga) ; Madaripur 10½ seers.
 T. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Pirojpur 8 seers ; Patuakhali 9 seers ; Bhola 8 seers.

PRICES-CURRENT (retail) of Food-grains and Salt in the Head-quarters

		QUANTITIES PER RUPEE IN																		
Number.	DISTRICTS.	WHEAT.			BARLEY.			RICE, BEST SORT.			RICE, COMMON.			JOWAR OR CHOLU (Sorghum Vulgare).						
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.				
		S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.			
BENGAL—concluded.																				
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.	24	Tippera	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 12	8 0	12 8	12 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
	25	Noakhali	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 0	8 0	11 4	11 8	9 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
	26	Chittagong	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 0	10 10	8 0	11 12	11 12	10 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
BIHAR.																				
PATNA DIVISION.	27	Patna	...	14 0	13 0	10 8	23 0	20 0	13 0	11 8	13 0	9 0	15 0	15 0	9 12	24 0	25 0	...	...	...
	28	Gaya	...	14 0	13 0	9 4	23 0	21 0	12 4	8 0	7 0	6 8	14 0	14 0	8 0	17 8	18 0	10 0	...	...
	29	Shahabad	...	{ 13 8 & 14 0 }	{ 10 8 to 11 0 }	{ 9 8 & 10 0 }	18 0	18 0	12 0	7 0	{ 12 4 & 12 8 }	{ 8 8 & 9 0 }	{ 11 8 & 13 0 }	{ 13 8 & 14 0 }	{ 9 8 }	...	...	...	...	...
	30	Saran	...	13 0	13 0	19 0	18 0	21 0	12 14	7 0	8 0	7 0	11 0	13 8	9 12	...	...	...	...	...
	31	Champaran	...	14 0	11 0	8 4	24 0	...	12 0	6 8	6 8	6 0	13 8	14 0	9 8	...	...	...	...	...
	32	Muzaffarpur	...	14 0	13 0	9 8	20 0	20 0	12 0	6 0	6 0	6 8	12 0	13 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	33	Darbhanga	...	12 0	11 0	8 4	16 0	13 8	11 0	6 8	6 0	6 8	11 0	11 0	8 0	...	...	...	...	...
BHAGALPUR DIVISION.	34	Monghyr	...	{ New 16 12½ Old 11 8½ }	15 6	9 7	21 0	21 0	...	6 4½	6 4½	6 4	12 1½	12 13½	8 6	...	...	...	...	...
	35	Bhagalpur	...	13 12	12 10	9 2½	20 0	17 12	12 10	11 4	11 6	7 10	13 12	13 14	8 13½	...	...	...	...	...
	36	Purnea (Kasba)	...	12 0	10 8	10 0	...	...	...	14 0	13 0	7 8	15 8	15 8	8 4	...	...	...	...	...
	37	Malda (English Bazar).	...	14 0	12 8	10 0	...	...	...	9 0	8 0	...	14 0	14 0	9 0	...	...	...	...	...
	38	Sonthal Parganas.	...	11 0	8 8	7 12	13 0	14 0	...	9 0	10 0	7 12	13 0	13 0	9 4	...	...	...	...	...
ORISSA.																				
ORISSA DIVISION.	39	Cuttack	...	8 13	8 9	7 9	...	...	...	10 8	10 8	8 9	15 2	15 12	12 9	...	...	...	...	...
	40	Balasore	...	13 0	16 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	13 0	13 8	10 0	15 0	16 0	12 0	...	...	...	...	...
	41	Puri.	...	8 2	7 14	6 9	...	...	...	10 8	10 8	7 14	15 12	17 2	13 2	...	...	...	...	...
CHOTA NAGPUR.																				
CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.	42	Hazaribagh	...	11 0	10 12	8 8	16 0	13 4	10 9	6 0	6 0	6 8	12 0	12 4	8 12	...	...	...	...	...
	43	Lohardaga	...	{ 6 0 to 12 0 }	{ 6 0 to 10 8 }	{ 5 8 to 8 8 }	...	...	...	9 0	{ 9 0 to 10 0 }	7 0	{ 11 8 to 12 0 }	12 0	{ 8 8 to 8 12 }	...	...	...	...	...
	44	Palamau	...	14 5	14 1	8 12	23 8	23 10	14 1	12 6	11 8	7 5	13 0	13 0	7 7	...	...	...	...	...
	45	Manbhum	...	11 0	12 0	8 0	18 0	18 0	12 0	10 0	10 0	9 0	15 0	16 0	10 0	...	...	...	...	...
	46	Singhbhum	...	8 0	8 0	8 0	...	...	...	14 0	14 0	9 0	16 0	16 0	11 0	...	...	...	...	...

U. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Chandpur 9 seers ; Brahmanbaria 9 seers 2 chittacks.
V. At Feni Hat the retail price of salt is 8 seers per rupee.
W. At Cox's Bazar the retail price of salt (panga) is 8½ seers per rupee.
X. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Barh 11 seers ; Bihar 10 seers ; Dinapore return not received.
Y. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Nawada 9 seers ; Aurangabad 9½ seers.
Z. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Sasaram 10½ seers ; Bhabua 9½ seers ; Buxar return not received.
a. In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Siwan 11½ seers ; Gopalganj (Mirganj) 12 seers 2 chittacks.

CALCUTTA,
The 26th April 1898.

KANGNI OR KAKUN
ITALIAN MILLET.
(*Setaria italica*.)

GRAM, CHHOLA, OR SON
(*Cicer arietinum*)

Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.	re- Corresponding turn of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding re- turn.
-----------------	-----------------------------	--	-----------------	-----------------------------

S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.	S. Ch.
...
...	7 6 7 8	...
...	8 4 8 0	...

12 0	14 0	13 0	13 8	13 0
11 0	10 0	9 0	17 8	18 0
...	...	...	18 0	16 8
10 0	10 0	10 0	16 8	17 0
...	...	...	17 0	11 0
...	...	...	16 0	15 0
...	...	...	14 0	14 0

12 11	10 8	...	16 12	16 12
...	...	...	17 0	14 0
...	...	...	13 0	10 0
...	...	...	16 0	...
...	...	...	13 0	13 0

...	...	...	14 7	15 2
...	...	...	10 0	10 0
...	...	...	13 0	12 0
...	...	...	11 4	11 4

...	...	...	14 0	14 0
...	...	...	8 0	8 0
...	...	...	12 0	11 0
...	...	...	20 4	18 0
...	...	...	13 0	12 0
...	...	...	9 0	9 0

Station Bazars of the Districts of Bengal on the 15th April 1898—(concluded).

INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE. (Zea mays.)															ARHAR OR THUR, CADJAN PEA. (Cajanus indicus.)						SALT.			WHOLESALE PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 SEERS.						DISTRICTS.	Number.
Present return.			Next preceding return.			Corresponding return of last year.			Present return.			Next preceding return.			Corresponding return of last year.			Present return.			Next preceding return.			Corresponding return of last year.							
S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	S.	Ch.	R.	A.	P.	R.	A.	P.	R.	A.	P.					
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At Bettiah the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.	46
In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Hajipur 9½ seers and Sitamarhi 10 seers.	
In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Samastipur 11 seers, Madhubani 10 seers 6 chitaks.	
In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Begusarai 10½ seers, Jamui 10 seers.	
In the Banka, Madhupura and Supaul subdivisions the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.	
In the Kishanganj and Araria subdivisions the retail price of salt is 9 seers per rupee.	
In the subdivisions the retail prices of salt per rupee are :—Godda 9 seers (mixed), Jamtara 9 seers (panga), Pakour 10 seers (karkatch), Rajmahal 11½ seers (karkatch), Deoghur return not received.	
In the Jajpur and Kendrapara subdivisions the retail price of salt (panga) is 9 seers per rupee.	
At Bhadrak the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.	
At Khurda the retail price of salt is 12½ seers per rupee.	
At Gobindpur the retail price of salt is 10 seers per rupee.	

Published for general information.

M. FINUCANE,
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

PRICES-CURRENT (wholesale) of Food-grains, Firewood, &c.

Number.	MARTS.	RICE (BEST SORT).			COMMON RICE (<i>mota chaul</i>).			WHEAT (<i>Triticum sativum</i>).			BARLEY (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>).		
		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	2	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1	Calcutta	5 4 0	5 12 0	6 0 0	New. 3 12 0	4 8 0	4 12 0	3 10 0	3 12 0	4 8 0	2 10 0	2 8 0	3 4 0
2	Burdwan	3 9 0	3 6 0	4 12 0	3 0 0	2 15 0	4 0 0	3 4 0	...	...	...	...	...
3	Midnapore	3 8 0	3 8 0	4 8 0	3 0 0	2 10 0	3 12 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Pabna	6 10 0	6 10 0	6 10 0	3 5 3	3 5 3	4 12 0	2 10 0	2 10 0	4 4 0	...	...	...
5	Rangpur	4 12 0	4 12 0	6 0 0	3 0 0	3 1 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	4 8 0	...	...	...
6	Dacca	3 14 0	3 14 0	4 14 0	3 4 0	3 4 0	4 3 0	2 12 0	4 12 0	4 8 0	1 8 0	1 8 0	2 4 0
7	Chittagong	4 0 0	3 12 0	5 4 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	4 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Patna	3 7 0	3 0 0	4 6 0	2 8 0	2 10 0	4 0 0	2 12 0	3 0 0	3 11 0	1 9 0	1 14 6	3 0 0
9	Muzaffarpur	6 10 6	6 10 6	6 2 6	3 5 3	3 1 3	4 7 0	2 13 6	3 1 3	4 9 6	2 0 0	2 0 0	3 5 0
10	Bhagalpur	3 8 6	3 8 0	5 5 0	2 14 0	2 13 6	4 8 0	2 14 0	3 3 0	4 6 0	2 0 0	2 3 0	3 2 0
11	Cuttack	3 6 6	3 6 6	4 5 6	2 8 6	2 5 6	3 1 0	4 0 0	4 8 6	4 13 0	...	...	...
12	Ranchi	4 7 0	{ 4 0 0 to 4 7 0 }	5 11 0	{ 3 5 0 to 3 8 0 }	3 5 0	{ 4 8 6 to 4 11 0 }	{ 3 5 0 to 6 10 6 }	{ 3 12 9 to 6 10 6 }	{ 5 2 0 to 7 4 0 }	...	...	...

CALCUTTA,
The 26th April 1898.

OR CHOLUM (<i>Sorghum vulgare</i>).			BAJRA OR CUMBU (<i>Pennisetum typhoideum</i>).			MARUA OR RAGI (<i>Eleusine corocana</i>).			GRAM, CHANA, CHOLA, KADALAY, OR SUNAGA (<i>Cicer arietinum</i>).		
Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.		Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
16	17		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
0	2 3 0	3 4 0	2 10 0	2 6 0	4 8 0	...	...	...	2 12 0	3 0 0	3 8 0
	2 12 0	3 0 0	3 12 0

	2 6 6	2 10 0	3 5 0
	3 4 0	3 8 0	4 0 0
	3 8 0	3 12 0	4 0 0
	4 12 0	5 0 0	4 14 0
1 9 0	2 1 6	2 3 0	3 1 3
	1 13 0	1 13 0	...	...	...	...
	2 5 6	2 11 0	3 5 6
	Biri or 2 10 6	kalai. 2 8 6	2 14 3
	5 0 0	{ 3 10 0 to 5 0 0	{ 5 0 0 to 5 11 0

PRICES PER MAU											
INDIAN-CORN OR MAIZE (<i>Zea mays</i>).			ARHAR DAL OR THUR — CADJAN PEA (<i>Cajanus indicus</i>).			LINSEED.			MUSTARD AND RAPESEED.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
2 0 0	2 2 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 0 0	3 14 0	4 0 0	4 8 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
...	...	...	3 4 0	3 4 0	4 4 0	...	...	...	3 12 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	3 8 0	3 8 0	4 0 0	4 6 0	4 6 0	4 6 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 4 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
...	...	...	2 0 0	2 0 0	4 6 0	3 6 0	3 6 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0
2 0 0	2 0 0	4 0 0	5 8 0	5 8 0	6 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	11 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
...	...	...	3 4 0	3 8 0	4 2 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0
1 11 0	1 9 0	...	1 13 0	1 14 6	2 10 6	2 12 0	3 4 0	3 5 0	3 7 0	3 9 0	3 9 0
2 0 0	2 0 0	4 0 0	3 10 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 10 9	1 11 0	3 5 6	2 2 0	2 1 0	3 0 6	3 5 0	3 13 0	3 8 0	4 2 0	3 14 0	3 14 0
...	...	...	2 5 6	2 5 6	2 12 3	...	...	...	4 3 6	4 3 6	4 3 6
...	...	...	5 0 0	5 0 0	{ 5 11 0 to 6 10 6 }	3 1 0	4 7 0	4 7 0	{ 3 1 0 to 3 10 0 }	{ 1 0 0 to 5 0 0 }	{ 1 0 0 to 5 0 0 }

STANDARD SEERS.

TIL OR JINJILI SEED.			SUGAR (RAW).			COTTON, CLEANED.			JUTE.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	
A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
0	4 0 0	4 4 0	4 13 0	4 10 0	5 0 0	16 8 0	16 8 0	17 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	5 0 0
...	...	...	4 12 0	5 0 0	4 5 0	14 8 0	18 0 0	18 10 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	4 10 0	4 8 0	4 6 0	18 0 0	18 0 0	20 0 0	...	...	...
...	...	...	4 0 0	4 0 0	3 12 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0	3 12 0	2 11 0	4 12 0
...	...	...	5 8 0	5 8 0	5 0 0	...	...	...	3 0 0	3 0 0	4 0 0
...	...	...	6 0 0	6 0 0	5 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	5 8 0	5 8 0	5 0 0	14 0 0	14 0 0	13 8 0	Figures not received.	3 0 0	4 0 0
3 12 0	3 15 0	3 12 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	14 0 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	...	...	...
...	...	3 10 0	4 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	2 8 0	3 0 0	2 8 0
...	...	3 7 0	4 0 0	3 7 0	15 0 0	16 0 0	16 0 0	...	...	...	...
3 10 6	3 5 0	5 12 0	5 12 0	4 12 0	24 8 0	24 8 0	20 8 0	...	...	...	...
...	...	4 12 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	...	...	...
...	...	5 0 0	...	5 0 0	5 11 0	...	...	...	...	...	...

GHI (CLARIFIED BUTTER).			TOBACCO LEAF.			HIDES (COW).			GRASS.		
Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
34 0 0	34 0 0	30 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	250-0-0 per 100 pieces.	250-0-0 per 100 pieces.	250-0-0 per 100 pieces.	7 4 0	7 0 0	6 0 0
32 0 0	30 0 0	26 0 0	...	...	...	Uncleaned hides, per piece -	...	...	...	...	...
No import	No import	32 0 0	Madhukhali.	4 8 0	5 4 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 12 0	...	...	...
			Pulta.	6 4 0	6 4 0	to 2 0 0	to 2 0 0	to 2 2 0	...	...	...
40 0 0	40 0 0	28 0 0	6 4 0	6 4 0	6 4 0	Cleaned hides, per piece -	...	...	...	...	...
						0 12 0	0 12 0	1 0 0	...	...	...
						to 2 12 0	to 2 4 0	to 2 6 0	...	...	...
40 0 0	40 0 0	28 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	8 0 0	...	...	...	7	7	...
38 0 0	32 0 0	30 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	bundles per rupee.	...	...
35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	6 8 0	6 8 0	7 8 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	27 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	...
						per maund.	per maund.	per maund.	per maund.	per maund.	...
40 0 0	40 0 0	32 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	18 0 0	...	...	...
						per maund.	per maund.	per maund.	...	...	...
30 0 0	25 0 0	22 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	...	...	...	0 5 0	0 5 0	...
									per maund.	per maund.	...
32 0 0	27 13 3	22 13 9	10 0 0	10 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34 2 0	32 0 0	29 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...
36 0 0	34 8 0	30 8 0	5 8 0	5 8 0	4 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	22 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	...
						per maund.	per maund.	per maund.	per kahan.	per kahan.	...
32 0 0	30 7 0	26 10 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	1 4 0	1 4 0	2 0 0	0 3 4	3 4	...
40 0 0	37 10 3	32 0 0	13 0 0	13 0 0	13 0 0	per piece.	per piece.	per piece.	per maund.	per maund.	...

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the undermentioned Mats of Bengal on the 15th April 1898.

STRAW.			JUAR STALKS.			PRICES PER MAUND OF 40 STANDARD SEERS.												MATS.
						IRON.			FIREWOOD.			SALT.						
Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.	Present return.	Next preceding return.	Corresponding return of last year.					
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78				
A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.				
0 5 4 0	5 0 0	...	...	...	6 0 0	6 0 0	5 0 0	0 7 0	0 7 0	0 7 0	3 7 0	3 0 0	3 9 0	1. Calcutta,	
per kahan.												Panga.						
0 5 0 0	7 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	3 6 0	3 6 6	3 6 0	2. Burdwan,
per kahan.																		
0 1 10 0	2 0 0	...	...	...	{ 4 8 0 to 5 0 0 }	4 8 0	{ 4 0 0 to 4 8 0 }	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	{ 3 10 0 to 3 7 0 }	3 9 0	3 14 0	3. Midnapore.	
per kahan.												Panga.						
0 1 0 0	0 12 0	...	...	...	7 8 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 13 0	6 3 13 0	4 1 6	4. Pabna.	
per maund.												Crushed.						
7	8	...	...	...	6 8 0	6 8 0	6 0 0	0 7 0	0 8 0	0 6 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 0 0	5. Rangpur	
ndles per rupee.												Panga.						
...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 8 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 4 0	3 11 0	3 11 0	4 0 0	6. Dacca
...	...	...	...	...	5 0 0	5 0 0	5 4 0	...	...	...	3 12 0	3 12 0	4 8 0	7. Chittagong,
0 0 5 0	0 7 0	...	...	...	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 5 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	3 8 0	8. Patna.	
per maund.												Panga.						
...	...	...	...	...	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	3 10 0	3 10 0	4 0 0	9. Muzaffarpur.
...	...	...	...	...	5 4 0	5 4 0	5 4 0	0 4 9	0 5 0	0 4 0	3 12 0	3 12 0	4 0 0	10. Bhagalpur.
2 1 4 0	3 3 0	...	...	...	4 8 0	4 8 0	4 8 0	0 4 6	0 4 6	0 4 0	3 1 0	3 1 0	3 0 0	11. Cuttack.	
per kahan.												Kurkutch.						
No fixed rate.		...	...	...	5 11 0	5 11 0	5 11 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	0 4 0	4 2 0	4 2 0	4 7 0	12. Ranohi.	
												Panga.						

M. FINUCANE,
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

I.
IMPORTS INTO CALCUTTA.
The following Statement shows the Quantities of the Principal Staples of the Interior by Rail, Road, River (Country-boat and Steamer), and Canal during the month of December 1897.

Whence imported.	RICE AND PADDY.					FOOD-GRAINS.					FIBROUS PRODUCTS.					OIL-SEEDS.		SUGAR.					TOBACCO.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
	Rice.		Paddy.	Total (in rice).	Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags.†	Linseed.	Mustard seed.	Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	Coal and coke.	Indigo.	Refined.	Unrefined.	Unmanufactured.	Manufactured.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
	Mds.	1	Mds.															2	Mds.	3	Mds.	4	Mds.	5	Mds.	6	Mds.	7	Mds.	8	Mds.	9	Mds.	10	Mds.	11	Mds.	12	Mds.	13	Mds.	14	Mds.	15	Mds.	16	Mds.	17	Mds.	18	Mds.	19	Mds.	20	Mds.	21																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																						
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* One manad of paddy is equivalent to 25 lbs. of rice.

† Exclusive of bags obtained by local manufacture.

Whence imported.	FOOD-GRAINS.										FIBROUS PRODUCTS.		OIL-SEEDS.		Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	Coal and coke.	Indigo.	SUGAR.		Unmanufactured.	Manufactured.
	RICE AND PADDY.				Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food-grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny-bags.†	Linseed.	Mustard seed.											
	Rice.	Paddy.	Total (in rice).																				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
ORISSA.																							
Cuttack	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.			
Balasore	2,181	2,181	2,181	2,181	427	2,608	2,608	114	2,600	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total of Orissa	82,689	15,906	98,595	98,595	2,132	35	94,797	114	2,600	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
CHOTA NAGPUR.																							
Hazaribagh	351	351	351	351	5,704	.....	6,055	.....	420	.....	.....	163	.....	.....	3,05,655	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Manbhum	29,817	29,817	29,817	29,817	537	.....	30,164	.....	3,220	.....	.....	878	.....	.....	14,42,834	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Singbhum	11,797	11,797	11,797	11,797	.....	.....	11,797	.....	400	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total of Chota Nagpur.	41,965	16	41,975	41,975	6,041	.....	48,016	.....	4,130	.....	.....	1,071	.....	.....	17,48,489	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand Total of supplies from the Provinces under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.	10,63,356	84,409	17,81,111	17,81,111	12,705	38,671	19,66,620	50,35,313	2,122,943	1,62,180	1,76,015	58,766	5,738	1,925	53,63,448	39,256	1,647	83,229	37,791	4,373			
OTHER PROVINCES.																							
Assam	1,070	1,070	1,070	1,070	200	.....	1,270	6,221	5,155	1,698	15,883	1,06,268	640	74	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	1,189	1,189	1,189	1,189	60,618	12,358	3,25,177	1	1,260	33,198	21,272	1,141	80,695	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Punjab	51	51	51	51	18,948	9,876	37,504	.....	370	.....	.....	380	5,142	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Central Provinces	25,997	25,997	25,997	25,997	1,724	729	28,997	.....	245	.....	.....	.....	306	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rajputana and Central India.	2,576	2,576	2,576	2,576	.....	.....	5,325	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Berar	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bombay	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Madras	.....	.....	.....	.....	14,637	.....	14,637	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Burma	39,453	39,453	39,453	39,453	.....	.....	39,453	.....	15,000	.....	.....	.....	1,827	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other places	34,893	34,893	34,893	34,893	732	15,340	50,974	.....	26,100	.....	.....	.....	4,351	.....	6,724	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grand Total (1897 of Imports in Decem-ber.	17,73,885	84,409	18,58,294	18,58,294	2,06,992	70,663	24,66,961	36,41,335	2,177,773	2,27,076	2,13,532	1,66,545	97,396	2,002	83,70,182	62,789	1,29,594	1,62,126	38,172	6,500			
	11,94,340	1,10,522	12,63,435	12,63,435	2,10,733	28,901	30,08,068	27,30,702	2,388,168	99,491	1,22,576	1,53,681	1,25,765	817	40,76,704	57,249	42,563	1,06,029	54,376	5,468			
† Exclusive of bags obtained by local manufacture.																							

* One maund of paddy is equivalent to 25 seers of rice.

† Exclusive of bags obtained by local manufacture.

II.

The Sea-borne Trade of Calcutta in these Staples during the month of December 1897 was as follows:—

EXPORTED FROM CALCUTTA.	Rice.	Paddy.	Total (in rice).	Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food- grains.	Total.	Jute, raw.	Gunny- bags.	Linseed.	Mustard seed.	Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	SUGAR.	
															Refined.	Unrefined.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
To Indian ports, viz.—	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Bombay ...	84,751	30	84,770	.....	63	151	84,984	.....	2,967,450	.....	.....	4,561	.....	.....	34	.....
Other ports in Bombay ...	679	.....	679	.....	.....	.....	679	.....	1,53,850	.....	.....	45	.....	.....	.....	.....
Madras ...	16,525	.....	16,525	851	8,266	994	26,636	.....	2,45,350	.....	504	68	.....	22	280	.....
Other ports in Madras ...	1,05,867	9,921	1,11,867	284	1,447	20	1,13,618	27	4,12,500	.....	1,421	15	.....	10	11	1
Burma ...	2,249	.....	2,249	6,599	17,346	4,712	30,906	362	3,080,200	19	61	249	513	11	482	1,810
Other Indian ports ...	3	.....	3	885	3,953	20	4,861	.....	442,000	.....	.....	2	5	4	2,237	2,969
Pondicherry ...	.....	.....	.....	20	161	.....	121	.....	3,500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total of Inter- portal trade ...	2,09,874	9,951	2,16,093	8,639	31,176	5,897	2,61,805	389	7,305,459	19	1,986	4,940	518	47	3,376	4,770
To Foreign ports—																
United Kingdom	20,764	.....	20,764	.....	1,138	.....	21,902	4,11,682	2,309,050	2,93,951	27,224	1,76,433	1,878	533	10	.....
Other Foreign ports ...	6,75,334	60	6,75,371	390	14,396	3,152	6,93,209	21,73,821	20,488,680	24,366	10,857	26,960	16,124	109	261	.....
Total of Foreign trade ...	6,96,098	60	6,96,135	390	15,534	3,152	7,15,201	25,85,503	22,797,730	3,18,217	38,081	3,03,393	18,002	642	271	.....
Grand Total of Exports in Dec. 1897	9,05,972	10,011	9,12,228	9,019	46,710	9,049	9,77,006	25,85,892	30,103,180	3,18,236	40,067	3,03,333	18,520	689	3,647	4,770
1896	8,65,024	1,013	2,65,637	4,218	48,602	14,674	3,33,211	28,53,355	15,942,245	1,05,776	12,344	1,75,028	45,231	963	6,484	2,354

III.

IMPORTS INTO CALCUTTA.

The following Statement shows the several Routes followed by the Trade in the Principal Staples of Traffic imported into Calcutta during the month of December 1897.

SPECIFICATION OF ROUTES.	FOOD-GRAINS.					FIBROUS PRODUCTS.		OILSEEDS.		Tea, Indian.	Cotton, raw.	Silk, raw.	Coal and Coke	Indigo.	SUGAR.	
	Rice.	Paddy.	Wheat.	Gram and pulses.	Other food- grains.	Jute, raw.	Gunny- bags.	Linseed.	Mustard seed.						Re- fined.	Un- refined.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
By country boats ...	7,95,093	41,266	253	26,857	339	7,50,612	804,178	19,477	27,929	98	5,259	79	15,658	258	271	21,815
„ river steamers ...	64,662	312	.....	9,260	.....	10,05,487	5,530	467	7,015	1,06,258	164	280	.....	.....	.....	5
„ Rail { E. I. Railway	6,10,125	6,366	2,66,078	2,17,467	59,991	2,37,037	123,935	1,94,570	1,65,453	2,960	79,458	1,427	53,40,340	57,746	19	20,940
„ Rail { H. B. S. Rail- way.	37,961	574	.....	26,296	1,249	14,60,640	1,111,530	12,562	13,185	56,441	30	215	309	4,785	7	5,323
„ road ...	1,12,042	20,095	36	38	.....	1,87,445	90,400	.....	.....	.....	383	...	7,160	...	1,369	33,334
„ sea ...	1,54,092	15,905	.....	17,074	15,384	114	42,200	.....	.....	788	12,102	1	6,724	...	1,27,938	77,926
Grand Total of Imports in Dec. 1897	17,75,885	84,409	2,66,366	2,96,992	76,963	36,41,535	2,177,773	2,27,076	2,13,582	1,66,545	97,396	2,002	63,70,182	62,789	1,29,594	1,61,110
1896	11,94,340	1,10,562	4,94,099	2,10,733	38,901	27,30,702	2,308,168	99,491	1,22,576	1,53,681	1,25,765	817	40,76,704	57,249	42,598	1,06,026

IV.

EXPORTS FROM CALCUTTA.

The following Statement shows the Values and Quantities of the Principal Staples of Traffic exported Inland from Calcutta by Rail, Road, River (Country-boat and Steamer), and Canal during the month of December 1897:—

Commodities exported.	Cotton piece-goods.		Cotton twist.		Salt.	Kerosine oil.	Gunny-bags.	Whither exported.	Cotton piece-goods.		Cotton twist.		Salt.	Kerosine oil.	Gunny-bags.
	European.	Indian.	European.	Indian.					European.	Indian.	European.	Indian.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8								
ORISSA.															
Balasore	Rs. 52,070	Rs.	Mds. 611	Mds. 5,031	Mds. 13,431	Mds. 9,836	No. 450,600								
CHOTA NAGPUR.															
Hazaribagh	51,152	1,074	....	415	6,078	1,592	3,185								
Manbhum	1,44,087	1,869	79	680	27,458	3,168	30,560								
Singbhum	90,265	1,348	12	24	7,046	365	15,086								
Total of Chota Nagpur ...	2,85,484	4,882	91	1,099	41,182	5,065	48,530								
Grand Total of supplies into the Provinces under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.	60,86,873	25,149	11,780	21,452	6,75,989	2,61,112	1,614,593								
OTHER PROVINCES.															
Assam	8,46,803	100	2,816	....	41,006	14,022	32,850								
North-Western Provinces and Oudh	27,95,919	3,721	2,981	939	31,016	61,148	616,070								
Punjab	4,55,732	1,165	558	14	7	17,588	392,250								
Central Provinces	1,65,781	5,906	196	538	....	15,131	141,225								
Rajputana and Central India	78,815	465	91	....	....	346	137,515								
Nizam's Territory	40,269	98	....	....	....	....	137,395								
Bombay	2,669	232	....	....	....	....	3,121,300								
Berar	27,182	772	132	5	....	4,994	657,850								
Pondicherry ... ..	....	....	39	....	....	....	3,500								
Burma	1,98,036	175	1,346	1,688	....	246	3,980,200								
Other places	5,631	2,587	433	10,826	....	38	22,797,730								
Grand Total of Ex-ports in December 1897	1,15,95,067	49,458	20,392	35,462	7,53,018	3,74,625	32,732,418								
Grand Total of Ex-ports in December 1896	1,12,11,097	1,38,741	21,528	48,600	8,43,503	2,88,505	17,739,137								

V.

The Sea-borne Trade of Calcutta in these Staples during the month of December 1897 was as follows:—

IMPORTED INTO CALCUTTA.	COTTON PIECE-GOODS.		COTTON TWIST.		Salt.	Kerosine oil.	Gunny-bags.
	European.	Indian.	European.	Indian.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
From Foreign Ports—	Rs. 78,44,654	Rs.	Mds. 13,163	Mds.	Mds. 2,49,040	Mds.	No. 1,400
From India—	33,664	....	541	....	1,25,920	4,38,575	24,700
Total of Foreign Trade	78,78,318	....	13,507	....	3,74,960	4,38,575	26,100
From Indian Ports—	3,06,318	....	199	20,497	54,490	....	....
From Bombay—	....	....	19	....	....	....	....
From other ports in Bombay—	80,005	....	....	190	5,370	....	....
From Calcutta—	24,042	1,250	13	....	....	32,232	15,000
From other Indian ports—	450	....	....	....	....	....	1,100
Total of Interport Trade	4,10,815	1,250	231	20,687	59,860	32,232	16,100
Grand Total of Im-ports in December 1897	82,89,133	1,250	13,738	20,687	4,34,838	4,70,807	42,200
Grand Total of Im-ports in December 1896	1,03,88,226	4,88,475	15,832	19,830	6,33,783	1,65,747	14,666

* As per tariff declaration value.

VI.

The following Statement shows the several Routes followed by the Trade in the Principal Staples of Traffic exported from Calcutta during the month of December 1897:—

DESCRIPTION OF ROUTES—	Rs.	Rs.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	No.
Country boats	1,85,490	3,200	296	....	1,53,961	17,117	94,788
Steamers	13,49,920	100	4,650	38	1,34,135	64,494	85,360
East Indian Railway	68,23,395	30,603	5,026	12,428	4,00,565	1,50,913	2,270,135
Eastern Bengal State Railway	26,13,910	559	7,015	5,406	57,244	1,19,575	155,735
Grand Total of Exports in December 1897	2,24,454	2,634	582	....	4,162	7,412	23,290
Grand Total of Exports in December 1896	3,91,938	3,392	2,823	17,530	12,931	15,114	30,103,180
Grand Total of Exports in December 1897	1,15,95,067	40,458	20,392	35,462	7,53,018	3,74,625	32,732,418
Grand Total of Exports in December 1896	1,12,11,097	1,38,741	21,528	48,600	8,43,503	2,88,505	17,739,137

STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT,
The 1st April 1898.

D. J. MACPHERSON,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

Results of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Alipore Observatory from 17th to 23rd April 1898.

Month.	Date.	Maximum in sun.	Number of hours of bright sunshine.	Mean pressure barometer at 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.				HYGROMETRY.				WIND.		Rain.	WEATHER.
					Mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Mean wet bulb.	Vapour tension.	Dew point.	Humidity.	Prevailing direction.	Miles recorded.		
1898.		°		Inches.	°	°	°	°	°	Inches.	°	%			Inches.	
April	17th	143.5	10.4	29.745	79.8	89.6	20.2	69.4	72.3	0.693	68.3	68	E, SSW, and variable.	51	Nil	Morning partially cloudy, day and night clear.
"	18th	148.7	8.6	27.71	81.8	92.3	18.9	73.4	76.7	0.854	74.5	80	SW, S, and variable	135	0.07	Partially cloudy, g, d, p, t, & n.
"	19th	146.8	10.3	28.21	80.8	89.4	19.2	70.2	74.9	0.792	72.2	76	Variable	46	0.08	Partially cloudy, d.
"	20th	155.3	4.8	28.23	84.4	92.6	17.4	75.2	78.2	0.881	75.4	76	E and variable	39	Nil	Chiefly cloudy, d.
"	21st	150.5	10.7	27.46	84.6	95.6	19.4	76.2	76.7	0.813	73.0	70	SSW and SW	125	"	Day partially cloudy, night clear.
"	22nd	148.5	10.8	26.94	84.8	94.7	20.0	74.7	78.1	0.876	75.2	75	S by W and SSW	173	"	Chiefly clear, d.
"	23rd	151.5	10.9	27.50	85.5	93.1	15.6	77.5	77.8	0.850	74.3	69	SSW and S	175	"	Morning partially cloudy, day and night clear.

The mean pressure of the seven days	...	...	...	Inches.
The average pressure of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office	...	...	...	29.764
The total number of hours of bright sunshine	...	...	...	Hours.
The maximum possible number of hours of sunshine	...	...	...	66.5
The mean temperature of the seven days	...	...	...	83.1
The average temperature of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office	...	...	...	84.6
The extreme variation of temperature	...	...	...	26.2
The maximum temperature	...	...	...	95.6
The highest velocity of the wind in one hour	...	...	...	Miles.
The mean relative humidity	...	...	...	73
The average relative humidity of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office	...	...	...	70
The total fall of rain from 17th to 23rd April 1898	...	...	...	Inches.
The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office	...	...	...	0.15
The total fall from 1st January to 23rd April 1898	...	...	...	0.55
The average fall of the corresponding period for 24 years, Surveyor-General's Office	...	...	...	1.40
The mean pressure, temperature, &c., are deduced from the traces of the Barograph and Thermograph, and from observations made at 6h., 10h., 16h., and 22h.	...	...	...	4.03

The mean pressure, temperature, &c., are deduced from the traces of the Barograph and Thermograph, and from observations made at 6h., 10h., 16h., and 22h.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are obtained from self-registering thermometers. All the thermometers are verified and the readings have been corrected to a standard constructed and verified at the Kew Observatory. They are exposed under a thatched shed open at the sides, and are suspended four feet above the ground.

The barometer readings are corrected approximately to those of the standard, Newman's No. 86, formerly at the Surveyor-General's Office.

The hygrometric elements are obtained from Tables III, IV, and V of the official tables computed in the Meteorological Office, and based on Regnault's modifications of August's formula.

The directions and the movement of the wind are taken from the trace of a Beckley's anemograph.

The mouth of the rain-gauge is one foot above the ground.

o, overcast; g, gloomy; d, drizzling rain; p, passing temporary showers; t, thunder; <, lightning; n, strong wind; Δ, dew.

Results of the Barometrical and Thermometrical Observations taken at the Meteorological Office, Chowringhee, from 17th to 23rd April 1898.

MONTH.	Date.	Pressure at 10 A.M. corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr.	TEMPERATURE.						HYGROMETRY.			Rainfall, past 24 hours.
			Daily mean.	Maximum.	Range.	Minimum.	Dry bulb at 10 A.M.	Wet bulb at 10 A.M.	Vapour tension at 10 A.M.	Dew point at 10 A.M.	Humidity at 10 A.M.	
1898.		Inches.	°	°		°	°	°	Inches.	°	%	Inches.
April	17th	29.818	81.4	92.5	22.2	70.3	83.1	73.6	.701	68.6	62	Nil.
"	18th	.834	84.6	94.5	20.1	74.6	85.6	78.1	.862	74.8	70	"
"	19th	.909	81.1	91.5	20.9	70.6	82.5	74.5	.747	70.5	67	"
"	20th	.900	85.7	95.0	18.7	76.3	89.2	78.0	.809	72.9	58	"
"	21st	.817	86.7	97.0	20.7	76.3	89.6	79.5	.871	75.1	63	"
"	22nd	.760	85.9	96.0	20.2	75.8	89.6	80.5	.919	76.7	66	"
"	23rd	.820	86.8	95.0	16.4	78.6	89.6	80.5	.919	76.7	66	"

The mean 10 A.M. pressure of the seven days Inches. 29.837

The mean temperature of the seven days 84.6

The extreme variation of temperature 26.7

The maximum temperature 97.0

The mean 10 A.M. relative humidity of the seven days % 65

The total fall of rain from 17th to 23rd April 1898 Inches. Nil.

The daily mean temperatures are the crude means of maximum and minimum temperatures.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, BENGAL,

The 25th April 1898.

C. LITTLE,

Meteorological Reporter to the Govt. of Bengal.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Abstract statement showing Tollage on Canals in Bengal classed as Major Works for the month of February 1898, as compared with that of the corresponding month of the previous year.

CANALS.	TOLLAGE, 1897-98.			TOLLAGE, 1896-97.		
	During the month.	To end of the month.		During the month.	To end of the month.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Orissa Circle.</i>	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Taldanda Canal System	1,215 7 3	12,335 14 0	1,176 13 3	21,051 15 4		
Kendrapara ditto	11,518 3 7	1,07,913 0 1	10,055 7 1	1,01,032 12 4		
High Level Canal, Range I	4,016 14 6	20,106 5 9	2,428 13 6	17,883 3 3		
Ditto, " II	669 11 3	3,052 13 0	452 14 9	3,183 2 5		
Ditto, " III	197 8 0	887 7 8	105 12 3	834 7 5		
Jajpur Canal	49 15 6	276 8 6	41 0 9	266 4 9		
Total Orissa Circle ...	17,667 12 1	1,44,572 1 0	14,260 13 7	1,44,251 13 11		
<i>South-Western Circle.</i>						
Midnapore Canal	10,772 5 0	1,19,984 1 6	9,408 9 6	1,38,243 14 0		
Hijili Tidal Canal	7,403 15 6	82,516 7 9	4,913 1 0	81,179 0 6		
Total South-Western Circle ...	18,176 4 6	2,02,500 9 3	14,321 10 6	2,19,422 14 6		
<i>Sone Circle.</i>						
Patna Canal System	1,946 5 3	20,617 8 6	2,125 10 9	18,882 11 9		
Arrah ditto	3,366 15 9	28,360 8 3	4,641 14 9	26,111 4 0		
Buxar ditto	910 5 9	8,374 15 3	689 2 3	8,465 6 6		
Total Sone Circle ...	6,223 10 9	57,353 0 0	7,456 11 9	53,459 6 3		
GRAND TOTAL ...	42,067 11 4	4,04,425 10 3	36,039 3 10	4,17,134 2 8		

Government Transport Service.

CANAL.	TOLLAGE, 1897-98.						TOLLAGE, 1896-97.					
	During the month.			To end of the month.			During the month.			To end of the month.		
	Passengers.	Goods.	Total cepts.	Passengers.	Goods.	Total cepts.	Passengers.	Goods.	Total cepts.	Passengers.	Goods.	Total cepts.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Orissa Circle.</i>	No.	Mds.	Rs. A. P.	No.	Mds.	Rs. A. P.	No.	Mds.	Rs. A. P.	No.	Mds.	Rs. A. P.
High Level ...	4,788	466	4,291 11 3	54,788	5,878	42,149 10 1	3,640	724	2,904 4 3	36,962	6,196	31,279 8 2
Total Orissa Circle ...	4,788	466	4,291 11 3	54,788	5,878	42,149 10 1	3,640	724	2,904 4 3	36,962	6,196	31,279 8 2

Assessed Tollage Receipts.

CANALS.	EARNINGS, 1897-98.			EARNINGS, 1896-97.		
	During the month.	To end of the month.		During the month.	To end of the month.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Orissa Canals	21,959 7 4	1,86,721 11 1	17,165 1 10	1,75,531 6 1		
Midnapore Canal	10,772 5 0	1,19,984 1 6	9,408 9 6	1,38,243 14 0		
Hijili Tidal Canal	7,403 15 6	82,516 7 9	4,913 1 0	81,179 0 6		
Sone Canals	6,223 10 9	57,353 0 0	7,456 11 9	53,459 6 3		
Total	46,359 6 7	4,46,575 4 4	38,943 8 1	4,48,413 10 10		

CALCUTTA,
The 26th April 1898.

T. H. CLOWES,
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Abstract statement showing Tollage on Canals in Bengal classed as Minor Works and Navigation for the month of February 1898, as compared with that of the corresponding month of the previous year.

CANALS.	TOLLAGE, 1897-98.		TOLLAGE, 1896-97.	
	During the month.	To end of the month.	During the month.	To end of the month.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Calcutta and Eastern Canals ...	39,454 6 6	3,03,340 1 6	37,856 12 3	3,10,146 7 6
Tolly's Nala ...	7,668 8 3	63,652 3 0	7,417 10 3	74,414 8 9
Total ...	47,122 14 9	3,66,992 4 6	45,274 6 6	3,84,561 0 3
Orissa Coast Canal ...	10,025 15 6	72,501 6 3	4,767 7 3	72,948 2 9
Nadia Rivers ...	5,457 0 0	83,498 7 9	3,392 1 6	89,823 13 3
GRAND TOTAL ...	62,605 14 3	5,22,992 2 6	53,433 15 3	5,47,333 0 3

CALCUTTA,
The 26th April 1898.

T. H. CLOWES,
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CIRCULAR AND EASTERN CANALS.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending Saturday, the 23rd April 1898, as compared with the corresponding week of the previous year.

NATURE OF CARGO.	WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 23RD APRIL 1898.			WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, THE 24TH APRIL 1897.		
	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.	Number of boats.	Weight of cargo.	Tollage.
	No.	Mds.	Rs.	No.	Mds.	Rs.
Rice and paddy ...	182	55,075	872	221	16,180	206
Jute ...	34	16,200	262	9	2,225	53
Firewood ...	87	85,800	1,308	84	60,075	900
Other articles ...	707	1,90,025	2,613	503	1,38,505	1,955
Total ...	1,010	3,47,100	5,055	817	2,16,985	3,114

Weekly Return of Traffic Receipts on Indian Railways.

EASTERN BENGAL STATE RAILWAY.

(INCLUDING N. B., DACCA, K.-D., AND ASSAM-BIHAR SECTIONS.)

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 16th April 1898 on 818 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings, including ferry.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	181,420	33,640 0 0	7,20,570 0	1,12,240 0 0	6,680 0 0	2,12,560 0 0	35,586	33,455	69,041
Or per mile of railway ...	223	114 0 0	881 0	137 0 0	*2 0 0	*253 0 0	.....	.....	.....
For previous 13 weeks of half-year† ...	2,598,653	15,19,100 0 0	1,32,03,096 0	22,61,765 0 0	2,23,983 0 0	40,04,848 0 0	489,854	56,241	546,095
Total for 14 weeks ...	3,080,073	16,12,740 0 0	1,33,23,696 0	23,74,005 0 0	2,30,663 0 0	42,17,408 0 0	525,440	56,241	581,681
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding period of previous year ...	181,388	91,620 0 0	7,28,863 0	1,01,028 0 0	7,553 0 0	2,00,201 0 0	33,192	36,595	69,787
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	223	112 0 0	895 0	124 0 0	3 0 0	239 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	3,076,341	16,38,962 0 0	1,33,79,523 0	18,10,615 0 0	2,23,638 0 0	36,73,265 0 0	506,808	513,105	1,019,913

* Excluding steamer earnings.

† Audited up to 26th February 1898.

DACCA STATE RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 16th April 1898 on 86 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	18,940	6,890 0 0	24,550 0	2,500 0 0	170 0 0	9,560 0 0	2,895	937	3,832
Or per mile of railway ...	220	80 0 0	285 0	29 0 0	2 0 0	111 0 0	.....	.....	.....
For previous 13 weeks of half-year* ...	378,283	1,27,479 0 0	595,626 0	60,886 0 0	2,863 0 0	1,01,168 0 0	39,528	23,711	63,239
Total for 14 weeks ...	397,223	1,34,369 0 0	620,176 0	63,386 0 0	2,973 0 0	2,00,728 0 0	42,423	24,648	67,071
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	17,270	5,113 0 0	32,613 0	2,952 0 0	93 0 0	8,168 0 0	2,781	1,305	4,086
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	201	60 0 0	379 0	34 0 0	1 0 0	95 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	329,470	99,366 0 0	552,335 0	44,766 0 0	2,874 0 0	1,47,006 0 0	39,134	24,578	63,712

* Audited up to 26th February 1898.

BENGAL CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 9th April 1898 on 125 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Total traffic for the week ...	31,221	14,015 0 0	53,899 0	4,115 0 0	978 0 0	19,108 0 0	5,213	1,981	7,194
Or per mile of railway ...	250	112 0 0	427 0	33 0 0	8 0 0	153 0 0	.....	.....	.....
For previous 13 weeks of half-year* ...	4,10,797	1,84,451 0 0	848,213 0	57,488 0 0	34,347 0 0	2,76,286 0 0	60,748	32,095	92,843
Total for 14 weeks ...	4,42,018	1,98,466 0 0	901,612 0	61,603 0 0	35,325 0 0	2,95,394 0 0	65,961	34,076	1,00,037
COMPARISON.									
Total for corresponding week of previous year ...	34,829	12,411 0 0	57,113 0	4,145 0 0	62 0 0	16,618 0 0	3,865	3,114	6,979
Per mile of railway corresponding week of previous year ...	279	99 0 0	457 0	33 0 0	1 0 0	133 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Total to corresponding date of previous year ...	4,83,458	1,85,961 0 0	10,29,699 0	61,007 0 0	6,197 0 0	2,55,165 0 0	56,823	38,940	95,763

* Audited up to 5th February 1898.

BENGAL CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Approximate Return of Traffic and Mileage for the week ended 16th April 1898 on 125 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week ...	30,144	11,610 0 0	47,534 0	3,472 0 0	130 0 0	15,212 0 0	5,213	1,079	7,192
Mile of railway ...	341	93 0 0	380 0	28 0 0	1 0 0	122 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Previous 14 weeks of half- year ...	443,166	1,98,829 0 0	9,04,384 0	62,735 0 0	35,337 0 0	2,96,901 0 0	66,862	33,066	99,928
Total for 15 weeks ...	473,310	2,10,439 0 0	9,51,918 0	66,237 0 0	35,467 0 0	3,12,113 0 0	72,075	35,045	1,07,120
COMPARISON.									
Corresponding week of previous year ...	29,832	11,100 0 0	63,988 0	3,943 0 0	327 0 0	15,370 0 0	4,543	2,873	7,416
Corresponding date of previous year ...	239	89 0 0	512 0	31 0 0	3 0 0	123 0 0	.....	.....	.....
Corresponding date of previous year ...	516,290	1,97,061 0 0	10,93,637 0	64,950 0 0	6,524 0 0	2,68,635 0 0	61,366	41,263	1,02,629

* Audited up to 19th February 1898.

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

(INCLUDES TIERHUT STATE RAILWAY.)

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ending 9th April 1898 on 854 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated), including steam-boat.	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
Traffic for the week on 854 miles open ...	125,600	(a) 52,200	5,40,420	(b) 79,630	20,580	(b) 1,52,410	19,294	(c) 27,151	46,445
Mile of railway ...	147.07	61.13	632.81	93.24	24.10	178.47	.....	.....	.....
Previous 13 weeks of half- year ...	1,460,063	6,44,884	67,87,606	8,90,761	2,44,013	17,79,658	248,213	318,521	566,734
Total for 14 weeks ...	1,585,663	6,97,084	73,28,026	9,70,391	2,64,593	19,32,068	267,507	345,672	613,179
COMPARISON.									
Corresponding week of previous year on 819 miles open ...	134,061	58,958	5,74,167	68,780	20,714	1,48,452	15,901	(c) 25,406	41,307
Corresponding date of previous year ...	163.69	71.99	701.06	83.98	25.29	181.26	.....	.....	.....
Corresponding date of previous year ...	1,562,208	6,28,551	71,51,393	7,98,487	2,46,804	10,73,842	218,461	313,082	632,443

(a) Decrease due to less passengers having been carried.

(b) The increased weight with increased freight is due to larger quantities of food-grains having been carried over short leads last year.

(c) Includes 1,190 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

(d) Audited figures up to week ending 29th January 1898.

(e) 1,908 miles of ballast trains run on open line.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

Approximate Return of Traffic for the week ended 9th April 1898 on 286 miles open.

	COACHING TRAFFIC.		MERCHANDISE AND MINERAL TRAFFIC.		Other earnings (estimated).	Total earnings.	TRAFFIC TRAIN-MILES RUN.		
	Number of passengers.	Coaching receipts.	Weight carried.	Receipts.			Coaching.	Merchandise.	Total.
		Rs. A. P.	Mds. s.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.			
Traffic for the week ...	32,021	22,371 0 0	2,87,324 0	7,814 0 0	280 0 0	30,465 0 0	3,315	4,190	7,505
Mile of railway ...	111.46	78.22	1,004.63	27.32	0.98	106.52	11.29	14.65	26.24
Previous 13 weeks of half- year ...	362,919	2,17,557 0 0	29,36,900 0	1,12,553 0 0	7,161 0 0	3,37,271 0 0	40,478	57,477	97,955
Total for 14 weeks ...	394,940	2,39,928 0 0	32,24,224 0	1,20,367 0 0	7,441 0 0	3,67,736 0 0	43,793	61,667	105,460
COMPARISON.									
Corresponding week of previous year ...	22,380	12,494 0 0	2,22,326 0	6,957 0 0	288 0 0	19,739 0 0	3,000	7,388	10,388
Corresponding date of previous year ...	69.06	35.90	617.57	19.32	0.80	56.02	8.62	20.52	29.14
Corresponding date of previous year ...	300,906	1,74,003 0 0	22,27,808 0	1,23,935 0 0	7,053 0 0	3,04,991 0 0	56,200	100,723	156,923

(a) Includes audited figures up to week ending 5th March 1898.

FINANCIAL YEAR.

Approximate Statement of Gross Receipts of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 9TH APRIL 1898.				RECEIPTS FOR WEEK ENDING 10TH APRIL 1897.				TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1897 TO 9TH APRIL 1898.			TOTAL RECEIPTS FROM 1ST APRIL 1896 TO 10TH APRIL 1897.			Total increase in 1898.	Total decrease 1897
Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.	Receipts.	Per mile worked.	Mean mileage worked.		Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.	Mean mileage worked.	Total receipts.	Per mile worked per week.			
286	Rs. 30,465	Rs. 106.52	360	Rs. 19,739	Rs. 56.02	280		Rs. 41,120	Rs. ...	360	Rs. 26,941	Rs. ...		Rs. 14,179	

DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

						Rs.	A.	P.
Approximate earnings for the week ending 16th April 1898	...	...	...	...	...	17,540	0	0
Corresponding period of 1897	...	...	...	...	...	16,166	0	0
Increase	...	...	...	...	...	1,374	0	0
Receipts per mile for the week ending 16th April 1898	...	...	...	...	...	343	14	9
Ditto for the corresponding period of 1897	...	...	...	...	...	316	15	8
Increase	...	...	...	...	...	26	15	1
Receipts from 1st January to 16th April 1898	...	...	...	...	...	1,80,546	0	0
Corresponding period of 1897	...	...	...	...	...	1,90,200	0	0
Decrease	...	...	...	...	...	9,654	0	0



SUPPLEMENT TO The Calcutta Gazette.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1898.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

[Non-Subscribers to the GAZETTE may receive the SUPPLEMENT separately on payment of Six Rupees per annum if delivered in Calcutta, or Twelve Rupees if sent by Post.]

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Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892.

THE Council met at the Council Chamber on Monday, the 4th April, 1898.

Present:

- The Hon'ble SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, *presiding*.
 The Hon'ble W. H. GRIMLEY.
 The Hon'ble H. H. RISLEY, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble RAI DURGA GATI BANERJEA BAHADUR, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble J. PRATT.
 The Hon'ble NAWAB SYUD AMEER HOSSEIN, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble M. FINUCANE, C.S.I.
 The Hon'ble W. B. OLDHAM, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble R. B. BUCKLEY.
 The Hon'ble SAHIBZADA MAHOMED BAKHTYAR SHAH, C.I.E.
 The Hon'ble M. C. TURNER.
 The Hon'ble NORENDRA NATH SEN.
 The Hon'ble KALI CHARAN BANERJEE.
 The Hon'ble SURENDRANATH BANERJEE.
 The Hon'ble JATRA MOHAN SEN.
 The Hon'ble T. W. SPINK.

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

The debate on this Bill was resumed:—

The Hon'ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE said:—"SIR,—My first duty is to congratulate the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill on the lucid and exhaustive statement with which he has prefaced his introduction of the Bill. Greatly as I differ from him with regard to his views about the Bill, and strongly as I condemn the measure, I am bound to recognize the tact, judgment and ability, and above all the conciliatory attitude, which are so conspicuous throughout the speech. My hon'ble friend rests his case not so much upon the failure of the Commissioners as upon the alleged inherent weakness of the system under which they had to work. It is the system rather than the men that he attacks. I commend this part of his speech. He has thus endeavoured, so far as it lay in his power, to clear the atmosphere and relieve the controversy of those personal elements which at one time threatened to darken the issues involved; for I can conceive no greater misfortune than that we should in approaching this grave consideration allow our minds to be perverted—our judgments to be warped—by any sentiment of personal or party bias or by any lingering recollection of a controversy which I hope and trust has now been forgotten. We should endeavour, in considering this question, to rise to the height of judicial impartiality and level-headedness, for the issues involved are of grave and far-reaching importance. If this Bill should unhappily become the law of the land, and if its principles are to be engrafted upon the system of Local Self-Government which prevails in the Mufassal, then I have no hesitation in saying—I say it with regret, but say it I must—that one of the greatest blessings which we enjoy under British Rule, and with the inauguration of which, Sir, your name is so honourably associated—the inestimable boon of Local Self-Government—will have become a thing of the past.

"Well, Sir, if I have rightly understood the attitude of my friend—and it is an attitude which challenges the system rather than the men—then the question which we have to ask ourselves is this—what are the grounds upon which he bases his conclusions? My hon'ble friend says in substance that the municipal system of Calcutta has been tried and has been found wanting, that the conservancy arrangements have broken down, that the constitution does not ensure prompt and continuous executive action, and that it is unequal to the strain of a grave and sudden emergency. This represents the sum and substance of his indictment against the Corporation. Great as is the authority which undoubtedly belongs to my hon'ble friend as the Head of the municipal administration of these Provinces, I think we shall be guilty of no disrespect towards him, if we ask him to produce his evidence and to place before us the materials upon which he has based his opinion and upon the strength of which he invites this Council to endorse his judgment. Sir, if we examine the matter a little closely, we shall find that my hon'ble friend has undertaken a task beset with serious difficulties. It will not be enough for him to show that in regard to the municipal administration of Calcutta there has been a failure here—a defect there—a break-down elsewhere. He must carry his evidence much further than that. He must show that the system has so completely failed—the situation is so desperate—that no partial remedy will suffice—that there must be a radical and fundamental change—that the system must be broken up, the site cleared for the erection of a new and a totally different superstructure. Nay more—he must advance a stage yet further. My hon'ble friend must show that in the actual circumstances of Calcutta, menaced by the plague, the only remedy that is left open to us as sensible and wise men is to adopt the discredited municipal system of Bombay which was not able to keep out the plague. A more desperate position—one more entirely at variance with the dictates of reason and sound sense—it would be difficult to conceive. My friend may well feel staggered, I will not say at the temerity of the enterprise, but at the gravity of the task which he has imposed upon himself, and if he is not able to do justice to it, his great ability will not be at fault—the badness of the cause will be responsible for it.

"Well, Sir, my hon'ble friend has laid before the Council the Report of the Sanitary Inspectors appointed by the Plague Committee. I have not the smallest desire to whittle down the evidence of these distinguished experts; but I have a complaint to make—a complaint with which I am sure the Council will sympathize—as to the procedure which my hon'ble friend has thought fit to adopt. The Hon'ble Member has not done the Corporation the justice which the Corporation is entitled to receive at his hands. My friend has read out the indictment but not the explanation—the charge but not the answer of the Corporation. It is not for one moment to be supposed that the Corporation allowed judgment to go by default. At more than one meeting did the Corporation consider the Report of the Sanitary Inspectors—more than one explanation did they submit with regard to that report. Some of the allegations were admitted, others were challenged, with regard to the rest explanatory notes were submitted. I crave the indulgence of the Council to be allowed to proceed with the details of the Explanation submitted by the Corporation.

'(a) *Overcrowded and badly-built houses.*—The general statements made under this head are mainly correct, but it is to be noted that most of the houses and huts attended to by the Medical Board were constructed before the present rules came into force.'

"I maintain therefore that the Commissioners are not responsible for this defect. But let us proceed:—

'(b) *Defects of public latrines.*—These defects are fully admitted and will be remedied as soon as the *unfiltered water-supply* is increased. It is to be hoped that this will be accomplished in six to nine months.'

"The unfiltered water supply has now been increased:—

'(c) *Defects of private latrines.*—In the opinion of the Commissioners the state of things described by the Medical Board is not common in *pukka* houses, except in those of old standing, and as regards privies in bustees they would remind Government that previous to 1884 there were practically no privies in bustees at all. As soon as the unfiltered water-supply is increased notices will be served upon the owners of houses in which there are bad privies to have them connected with the sewers. The Commissioners think it also necessary to add that in the case of some poor people the Commissioners have paid from Municipal Funds for the connection of their privies with the sewers. Paragraph 3 of the Health Officer's Note deals fully with this subject.'

"Now, Sir, there are 50,000 latrines in Calcutta. Could the Sanitary Inspectors have seen one-tenth or even one-hundredth part of these latrines? In some quarters and among a certain class of experts, I am afraid, there is too great a disposition to jump to sweeping conclusions when they happen to be in harmony with their preconceived ideas. Could the laws of induction have been more openly set at defiance by scientific men who ought above all to be scrupulously careful of them?—

'(d) *State of house drains and drain-pipes.*—It is fully admitted that these are in many cases choked and out of repair, but an establishment of Inspectors is kept up for the inspection of house-drainage.'

"Now I come to statements that are challenged by the Commissioners.—

'(e) *State of surface drains.*—The Commissioners are not prepared to admit the general statement that latrines are allowed to discharge into surface drains. Occasionally it is found that such a practice exists. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Sanitary Officer's report, they would call attention to paragraph 5 of the Health Officer's Note (a copy of which is sent herewith) on the surface drains, and to paragraph 20 of the Chief Engineer's Note sent (herewith).

'(f) *Neglect of road scavenging.*—As regards the sufficiency of the staff there is a considerable difference of opinion, and the whole question has attracted the careful attention of the Commissioners. As regards the question of the pollution of the subsoil, although there is no doubt that in certain places this is the cause of many most noxious smells, yet it is a matter of doubt whether in many cases it is not the sewers which are mainly responsible. As to the means suggested to minimize the evils of pollution, it will be observed from paragraph 12 of the Health Officer's Note that he is strongly opposed to the use of perchloride of mercury, and that in the face of such opposition the Commissioners have not hitherto thought it advisable to give this experiment a trial.

'(g) *State of compounds and courtyards.*—The Commissioners generally differ very much from the remarks of the Medical Board on this subject if they are intended to apply generally to all localities, but they fully admit their applicability to Wards 5 and 7 (Burra Bazar and Jorabagan) as a whole, and for this reason have allotted to those wards a special establishment. Action is being persistently taken under section 318.'

"I would in this connection call attention to the remarks which the Commissioners make on this head in a subsequent communication dated the 21st April, 1897. They say:—

'With regard to the remarks in this paragraph, the Commissioners would point out that it is not apparent whence the Board got its information about the number of coolies, &c., employed, but from the Health Officer's report dated 15th March, it appears that on that day 1,588 men were on the roll, of whom 1,317 were present at work, and also 329 carts. The whole of the sum allotted has now been spent. As regards the question of the supervising staff living in or near the wards where they work, the Commissioners fully agree with the remarks of the Medical Board; but they would point out that the cost of providing quarters is very expensive.

'(h) *Pollution of wells.*—With regard to this, the Commissioners wish to point out that in recent years a very large number of wells has been filled up, and this filling up will be proceeded with as soon as the water of the wells has been analysed and the increased supply of unfiltered water provided. The Commissioners are of opinion that if the existing wells are filled up before this is done, that very great hardship will be suffered by many house-holders.

'(i) *State of cow-sheds and stables.*—Although a great deal undoubtedly remains to be done in the question of improving them, latterly there has been a most decided improvement in some instances, and it is to be believed that recent modifications in the bye-laws will lead to still further improvement.

'(j) *The state of hackney carriage stands.*—The Commissioners are fully aware of the bad state of these stands, and scarcity of money has alone prevented them from making many of the improvements required.'

"It is the old question of the eternal want of pence from which Administrations higher than that of the Municipality suffer even more grievously than the Municipality does:—

'(k) *Conditions of bustees.*—The Commissioners fully admit that there is a great deal of room for improvements in bustee, that they would call attention to the fact that a great deal has lately been done and that improvements are being steadily pushed on. More money than is required by the law to be spent on this head has been spent.'

"In ten years' time the Commissioners have spent 13 lakhs of rupees upon bustee improvement. When I joined the Corporation in 1876, a sum of only Rs. 10,000 was set apart for bustee improvement. Since then it must be admitted there has been an enormous growth in expenditure upon this most important sanitary purpose—

'*Disposal of house-refuse.*—With reference to this the Commissioners would invite attention to paragraph 13 of the Health Officer's Note. Considerable difficulty is experienced in inducing native house-owners to allow the retention of the refuse food on their premises during the day, and it will be probably necessary to amend the Act on this subject.'

"Now here are statements and counter-statements—statements made by high authority and counter-statements made by authority equally high and equally entitled to weight. What are we to do in the midst of this conflict of testimony—this divergence of opinion—this war of opposing views? We are left in a dilemma, and we have a complaint to make against the Government that it has not lent us a helping hand to rescue us from this uncertain and dubious position. The natural, the normal procedure which the Government should have adopted in a case of this kind was to have appointed a Commission which would have sifted the matter, taken evidence and submitted a report. That would have been in accordance with precedent, for when in 1884 a complaint was made by some of the rate-payers of Calcutta regarding the sanitary administration of the town, a Commission was appointed with Mr. Justice Beverley as President. If such a Commission were appointed and it found in favour of the views of the Sanitary Inspectors, why, Sir, that would have silenced all criticism, removed all doubts and would have enormously strengthened the hands of the Government in any legislation which it might have thought fit to undertake. I cannot conceive any possible objection to the appointment of a Commission except on the score of delay. But, Sir, the constitution of the Calcutta Municipality has now been allowed to exist for a period of thirty-five years, extending over the lifetime of a generation, and if it were allowed to survive for a year or two longer, no great catastrophe would have happened, the world would certainly not have come to an end. Further, a Commission might have been appointed with instructions—with the mandate—to report within a definite time. The Beverley Commission to which I have referred was appointed in August, 1884; it reported in

January, 1885. The Building Commission submitted its report with praiseworthy promptitude. Is a public body—I ask—like the Calcutta Corporation to be condemned unheard—a public body with a brilliant record of active and useful service for the good of the town? Such a proceeding does not recommend itself to one's sense of justice and fair play, and will not, I am sure, be endorsed by this Council.

"In judging of the report of the Sanitary Inspectors and of its effect upon the course of legislation, the fact must not be overlooked that there is scarcely any European town, be it the richest or be it the most perfect in regard to sanitary arrangements, to some portion or other of which these or similar remarks might not apply. Take London, the capital of the British Empire, the richest city in the world. London and Calcutta cannot of course be compared in regard to their sanitary arrangements. They cannot be mentioned in the same breath; but not many years ago, in 1883, an account appeared of the back-slums of London in a well-known book, 'The Bitter Cry of Outcaste London,' which would put to shame the most vivid description of the insanitary condition of the worst parts of Calcutta. I will, Sir, with your permission read an extract from the book:—

'We do not say the condition of their homes, for how can those places be called homes, compared with which the lair of a wild beast would be a comfortable and healthy spot?

'Few who will read these pages have any conception of what pestilential human rookeries are, where tens of thousands are crowded together amidst horrors which called to mind what we have heard of the middle passage of the slave-ship. To get into them you have to penetrate courts reeking with poisonous and malodorous gases arising from accumulations of sewage and refuse scattered in all directions and often flowing beneath your feet; courts, many of which the sun never penetrates, which are never visited by a breath of fresh air, and which rarely know the virtue of a drop of cleansing water. You have to ascend rotten staircases which threaten to give way beneath every step, and which in some places have already broken down, leaving gaps that imperil the limbs and lives of the unwary. You have to grope your way along dark and filthy passages with vermin swarming. Then if you are not driven back by the intolerable stench, you may gain admittance to the dens in which these thousands of beings, who belong as much as you to the race for whom Christ died, here live together. Have you pitied the poor creatures who sleep under railway arches, in carts or casks, or under any shelter which they can find in the open air? You will see that they are to be envied in comparison with those whose lot it is to seek refuge here.'

"Sir, in judging of the system of municipal government which it is now proposed to supersede, we must take into consideration the sanitary condition of Calcutta such as it was in 1876, when the municipal system of this City for the first time came under the control of the elected Commissioners. This was what Dr. Payne, the Health Officer, said of the sanitary condition of Calcutta in 1876:—

'On the evidence of its mortuary record the town is surpassed in fatality by many eastern towns and by some in the west, and yet it is impossible to conceive a more perfect combination of all the evils of crowded city life in the primitive filthiness and disorder than is presented in the native portion of Calcutta. Dirt in the most intense and noxious forms that a dense population can produce covers the ground, saturates the water, infects the air and finds in the habits and incidents of the people's lives every possible facility for re-entering their bodies; while ventilation could not be more shunned in their houses than if the climate were arctic instead of tropical. If then Calcutta be not a deadly place, filth in its utmost intensity must be innocuous and sanitation a pretentious sham.'

"Going back to a point of time still earlier in the history of the municipal administration of Calcutta—to a point of time when the municipal system was entirely controlled by the Government, we have revealed to us a state of insanitation which in the words of Mr. (afterwards Sir) John Strachey, constituted a scandal to a civilized administration; and yet it is now seriously proposed to establish a form of municipal administration which makes the nearest approach to complete Government control! Let me read an extract from the report to which I have referred:—

'For many years past the sanitary condition of Calcutta has been a constant subject of complaint, and this condition has probably never been much worse than it is at the present time. The state even of the southern division of the town, which contains the fine houses of the principal European inhabitants, is often most offensive and objectionable, while with regard to the northern or native division of Calcutta, which contains some hundred thousand people, it is no figure of speech but the simple truth, to say that no language can adequately describe its abominations. In the filthiest quarters of the filthiest towns that I have seen in

other parts of India or in other countries, I have never seen anything which can be for a moment compared with the filthiness of Calcutta. This is true not merely of the inferior portions of the town or of the bye-ways and places inhabited by the poor classes, but it is true of the principal thoroughfares and of the quarters filled with the houses of the richest and most influential portion of the native community. If a plain unvarnished description of the northern division of Calcutta, bordered by their horrible open drains in which all the filth of the city stagnates and putrifies, were given to the people of England, I believe that they would consider the account altogether incredible.

“And again:—

“It is not my wish to attempt to describe in detail the condition of Calcutta. To all who are here upon the spot the facts are notorious. The state of the capital of British India, one of the greatest and wealthiest cities in the world, is a scandal and disgrace to a civilized Government.”

“Such was Calcutta in 1863—such was Calcutta in 1876—such was the legacy which the Justices received from the Government and which, with the sanitary arrangements somewhat improved, they bequeathed to the elected Commissioners. And what use, let me ask, did the elected Commissioners make of this filthy bequest? Why, Sir, they turned it to splendid account. They introduced sanitary improvements which have converted a city which from a sanitary point was a scandal to a civilized administration into a city which is one of the healthiest in India, to which our countrymen flee in hundreds and thousands, driven from their malaria-stricken homes in the mufassal, as to a health-resort. The elected Commissioners completed the drainage and water-works which had been initiated by the Justices. They have taken in hand the drainage and the water-works of the suburban area—they have reclaimed *bustees*, filled up foul tanks and have opened out new roads. The net result of their sanitary works has been that the price of land has been doubled within the last few years; and this, Sir, not owing to the expansion of trade and commerce,—for the growth of trade during the last five years shows a falling off, according to the statement of the Hon’ble Mr. Allan Arthur before the Supreme Council, as compared with its growth in the five years preceding—but to the advance of sanitation and the consequent improvement in the health of the people. The position which I have ventured to assume as regards the great sanitary improvements which have been effected under the present municipal system is supported by high and competent official authority. To the testimony of these distinguished men I desire to refer. Let me quote what Mr. Cotton, now Chief Commissioner of Assam, said as a Member of the Beverley Commission:—

“I have devoted myself at considerable length to this historical retrospect in order to demonstrate once for all how utterly unfounded is the charge brought against the Corporation that the action taken by it is fitful, spasmodic and at haphazard. It is true that at one time there was a period of inaction, but the reason for that is fully explained. The policy of the Corporation is rather, as Dr. McLeod described it, one of gradual and progressive reform. The whole case is, as the Army Sanitary Commission describe it, as complete as it well could be. I do not think the true friends of Local Self-Government, who are watching with unconcealed anxiety the struggle for existence which marks the infant growth of a great principle, could find anywhere in this country more satisfactory tokens of encouragement and hope than exist in the metropolis. The small tree is here firmly planted. I am not careful to enquire whether a better practical administration of the affairs of the town might not be possible. It is possible that the municipal work of the city might be more efficiently administered under the ideally perfect control of a benevolent despotism. But be that as it may, the policy of Government is now cast in another mould. We have another object in view, the education and training of the people, and for this end we are content to put up with many failures in practical administration. And so even if there had been failure in Calcutta, if the Municipal Commissioners had been found wanting, if there had been shortcomings, I would have appealed to the Lieutenant-Governor in his consideration of the Report of this Commission to deal with those imperfections tenderly and with patience. But I have shown, and my colleagues have shown, that there has been no failure. The Corporation of Calcutta as a representative body commands the confidence of the vast majority of the ratepayers; it has already done very much in the direction of sanitary reform; it has not retrograded in giving effect to a single sanitary improvement; stimulated by the healthy action of public opinion and profiting by the greater experience gained year by year, it has afforded, by the systematic enterprise of the past three years, the most solid guarantee that it will continue to advance on the path of progress.”

“I will not refer to the acknowledgment of the work of the Corporation made by the Commission itself. My hon’ble friend the member representing

the Corporation quoted it at length; but I will pass on to the evidence of Mr. Henry Lee, the Chairman of the Corporation, who thus observed in the Administration Report for 1891-92:—

‘The most damaging criticism that is commonly levelled against the principal of Local Self-Government in Bengal is that it prevents and obstructs a reasonable out-turn of work. I maintain that the record of the Calcutta Commissioners refutes this criticism. The system of municipal government that has been in vogue here for many years past doubtless entails greater demands on the time and patience of the Executive officers than did the old autocratic or oligarchical system. And such demands have been growing and will continue to grow year by year. But so long as the strain can be borne, and the Executive and the consultative or administrative officers of the governing body work harmoniously together, they produce a regular and satisfactory harvest of good works, of which there is no need to be ashamed.’

“One other quotation I desire to make in this connection, and that will be from the Government Resolution dated the 20th November, 1893; it is a Resolution of the Government of Sir Antony MacDonnell:—

“Sir Antony MacDonnell has perused with much interest the report reviewed in the preceding paragraphs; it records the execution of much useful work, especially in the direction of sanitation and of structural improvements, such as the extension of drainage and water-supply and the improvement of *bustees*, and for their share in carrying out these measures the thanks of the Lieutenant-Governor are due to the Executive officers of the Corporation, the Engineer and the Health Officer. The Commissioners themselves have, as a whole, displayed a care and attention to their duties which is very meritorious and has in some cases risen to the level of devotion. The year, though not actually one of straitened resources, was yet clouded by the shadow of impending pecuniary difficulties, and the policy of the Commissioners has doubtless on some occasions been guided by this circumstance, which has induced them to shrink from expenditure on objects which have strong claims upon them. In executive matters the Lieutenant-Governor perceives an occasional want of vigour, especially in the collection of rates, the enforcement of the law in regard to license fees, and the recovery of expenses from the owners of *bustees*. But these defects admit of remedy; and on suitable opportunities they will no doubt be remedied. Leaving them out of consideration, Sir Antony MacDonnell very cordially acknowledges the services the Corporation have rendered to the city, and thanks them for the careful control which they have exercised over the various departments of the municipal administration.’

“From the testimony of high officials, let us pass on to the testimony of facts, and here is a statement which, to save the time of the Council, I will not read, but will hand over to the Reporters. It shows the out-turn of sanitary work done by the elected Municipality which it is now proposed to supersede:—

	Calcutta of 1876.	Calcutta of 1888.
Brick sewers in miles ...	39.21	42.57
Pipe sewers in miles ...	47.34	142.50
Amount spent in drainage ...	Rs. 69,10,972	Rs. 96,97,724
Average quantity of water supplied to the town ...	6,541,154 gallons per day.	16,000,000 gallons with 4,000,000 gallons for the Suburbs.
Total number of houses connected ...	9,675	17,580
Amount spent in filtered water-supply ...	Rs. 71,56,986	1,22,86,485 including unfiltered supply.
Unfiltered supply was ...	721,675 gallons per day.	2,501,830
Length of roads was ...	132 miles.	147 miles, besides 34½ miles of public lanes over sewer ditches.
Watering of streets ...	12,237,941 feet.	16,173,033 feet.
Gas lamps ...	2,718	4,488
Oil lamps ...	700	803
Tanks which remained to be filled up.	331	Tanks which were filled up 240.

		Calcutta of 1876.	Calcutta of 1888.
Conservancy ...	Rs.	1,55,100	Rs. 3 lakhs.
Bustee conservancy ...		Nil	Refuse is removed and the roads and drains swept in the interior of bustees just as well as any-where else.
All refuse was thrown into open ditches filled with putrifying matter and a black greasy slime of several feet in depth.	.....		All the open ditches sewered, everything is swept once a day. The refuse is all removed once a day. The greasy slime of the ditches gone.
Bathing platforms ...		Nil	86
Public squares ...		14	19

"The foregoing synopsis shows the vast improvements the Commissioners effected up to 1888, and since the amalgamation further improvements have been effected which are enumerated below—

		Rs.
Drainage and miscellaneous ...	...	7,86,686
Suburban improvement ...	...	13,97,087
Bustee and town improvement ...	...	8,98,785
Net cost till 31st March, 1896, of Harrison Road	...	27,43,346
Water-supply extension ...	...	34,10,071
		<u>92,38,975</u>

"But it is said that the Corporation is unequal to the strain of a grave and sudden emergency. I dispute the proposition. There is absolutely no evidence in support of this view of the matter. Whatever evidence there is, distinctly negatives it. Well, Sir, there never was a greater crisis in the history of Calcutta than when it was feared that the plague would spread into the Capital. How did the Corporation act on that occasion? It acted with vigor and promptitude. It was on the 24th September, 1896, that it was reported in the newspapers that the bubonic plague had appeared in Bombay. The same day, there being a meeting of the Corporation, the matter was considered by the Commissioners. On the following day, the matter was again discussed by the General Committee. The Commissioners did not indulge in mere talk. That was not a season for talk or declamation, but for vigorous and decisive action. The Commissioners at once placed themselves in communication with the Government of Bengal, which at that time was staying at Darjeeling, with the Commissioner of Police, with the Port Trust and the Railway Authorities. The Government was asked to enforce a strict system of inspection in respect of all passengers coming from Bombay to Calcutta. Dr. Simpson, the Health Officer, was directed to visit different parts of the town daily instead of three times a week—his subordinates were to pay special attention to the cleansing of the town, for which they were authorized to entertain special establishments, and suspected cases were forthwith to be reported to the Health Officer. At my instance, a sum of three thousand rupees was placed at the disposal of the Health Officer for any preventive measures which he might think fit to take. An extra Conservancy establishment was entertained at an outlay of Rs. 5,500 a month. This establishment was eventually raised to 1,500 coolies and 329 carts. Eight Medical Inspectors were appointed and the services of a Chief Superintendent of Conservancy were entertained on a salary of one thousand rupees a month. Nor was this all. Arrangements were made for an isolation hospital, and ambulance carts were provided. The operations of the Commissioners in this respect cost them a sum of two lakhs of rupees. Sir, the late Health Officer, Dr. Simpson, was always a severe critic of the Corporation, but the measures of the Corporation elicited praise even from him. This was what he said in his Administration Report:—

'From the above account it will be seen that no pains have been spared to protect Calcutta against an outbreak of plague or to be in a state of preparedness to stamp it out, should the disease have unfortunately gained a foothold in this City.'

"But, Sir, it has been said—and I regret to have to remark that the statement appears in the letter of the Local Government addressed to the Government of India, and it has been repeated by the Hon'ble Member representing

the Chamber of Commerce—that the Commissioners did all this under pressure. The Government letter says ‘it was not till the 22nd January, and then under the strongest pressure from the Government and the Board, that the Commissioners sanctioned a grant of Rs. 30,000 towards a further temporary establishment for cleaning up the town.’ Sir, I venture to challenge this statement. It is not in accord with the facts of the case. Instead of the Commissioners being pressed by the Government, they were pressing an indifferent Executive, strangely insensible to the exigencies of the crisis, to do their duty. This view of the matter will be amply supported by a reference to the proceedings of the Commissioners. A question was asked at the meeting of the Commissioners on the 19th January, 1897, by my friend, Babu Nalin Behari Sircar, one of the ablest and most active among the Commissioners, whom I am glad to see here, and the answer given by the Chairman will leave no doubt on the mind of any one that the Commissioners were fully alive to the exigencies of the situation, and they did not need any pressure from the Government or from any one else. Babu Nalin Behari Sircar asked:—

‘What special measures have been taken by the Corporation since October last to remove these accumulated deposits of past years? If no special efforts have been put forward, will the Chairman kindly explain why this has not been done? (3) Is not the Chairman aware of a Resolution passed by the General Committee and unanimously confirmed by the Commissioners in meeting, to the following effect:—“That having regard, however, to the prevalence of the disease in Bombay, and to the intimate business relations that exist between the two Cities, the Commissioners are decidedly of opinion that a thorough cleansing of the town should be effected as soon as possible by employing a special establishment, and that they are prepared to spend any reasonable amount for the purpose.” (4a) What action has been taken by the Executive on this Resolution of the Commissioners passed so long ago as 25th October, 1896? (b) If nothing has been done, will the Chairman kindly explain why this Resolution of the Commissioners has not yet been given effect to, particularly when the chances of an outbreak of plague in Calcutta are not so remote now as they were in October last? (5a) When does the Chairman propose to bring forward before the Commissioners specific proposals for entertaining other special establishments for the speedy and prompt removal of accumulations of dirt from all such parts of the town as abound in them? (b) Will it be next week?’

“I will not take up the time of the Council by reading in full the answer that was given. I will confine my attention to the part which bears upon the point I am endeavouring to explain. Mr. Williams said:—

‘Before asking the Commissioners for extra establishment beyond the Special Cleansing Staff granted in October, the Health Officer considered it desirable, in order not to put the Commissioners to unnecessary expense, to ascertain what the existing staff could do under the excellent and energetic supervision of Dr. Banks. Dr. Banks, after making himself thoroughly acquainted with the capabilities of the existing establishment and of the local insanitary condition of the City, which of course required time, came to the conclusion that the establishment was inadequate—an opinion with which the Health Officer agrees. Dr. Banks has now placed before the Chairman a carefully considered statement in which he proposes a very considerable increase on the present establishment, and amounting to an extra expenditure of over two lakhs per annum. But the discussion of these proposals is likely to take up some time.’

“These proceedings took place on the 19th January. The Medical Board addressed the Government on the 20th, probably after having seen the proceedings of the Commissioners which appeared in the newspapers of the 20th. What the Commissioners did on the 19th January, it is very obvious, could not have been prompted by any communication which the Medical Board addressed to the Government on the following day.

“Now contrast the proceedings of the Bombay Corporation with those of the Calcutta Corporation which it is to supersede. The acting Chairman, Babu Nilamber Mookerjee, addressed a telegram to the Municipal Commissioner of Bombay making enquiries about the suspicious cases reported in the Calcutta newspapers. What was the answer that he received? Well, Sir, the Municipal Commissioner reported from Poona that there had been one or two suspicious cases. Here was the plague, the deadliest and the most insidious enemy which Bombay has had to fight against in the whole course of the century, slowly making its way through the doomed City, and the Head of the Executive of the Corporation—and that Executive is to be our model—was at Poona from where he suspected one or two cases! Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that such a thing would have been impossible on the part of the Chairman of the

Calcutta Municipality under the existing constitution. The supineness of the Bombay Executive in the earlier stages of the plague recently formed the subject of a motion for a vote of censure by the Commissioners, and the motion was carried in a modified form. What therefore is proposed is this—that the municipal system of Calcutta, which was tried by the stress and the strain of the plague, and which on the whole was not found wanting, is to be superseded by a municipal system which notoriously failed to meet the crisis! Well, Sir, I have always thought that experience was the guide of the practical administrator; but we are now going to discard the lessons of experience, and take a big jump into the unknown with results that are unknown. We are truly fallen upon evil times and upon evil tongues and by darkness and danger compassed round.

“But, Sir, it is stated that our municipal constitution is unequal to the requirements of modern sanitation. Where is the evidence in support of this view of the matter? Here, again, the lessons of experience raise a strong presumption in favour of the Commissioners being well qualified and of the municipal system being well adapted to meet the sanitary requirements of a large city like Calcutta. It is admitted that the scavenging is pretty well done; and you were good enough to say in your Palmer’s Bridge speech that in the lanes and streets where municipal carts can have access, the cleaning is fairly well done. Whatever insanitation there is, is largely due to defects in the structural arrangements of the City; and for those defects neither the Commissioners nor the system under which they work is responsible. The Commissioners did not create Burra Bazar—they did not make the filthy *bustees*—they did not open out the narrow lanes. All that came as a legacy to them from the Justices and the Government. The building regulations did not come into force till 1889, and we have it on the testimony of Dr. Simpson and of the Building Commission that if these regulations had been fully given effect to, even then they would not have gone very far. Whatever building regulations you may now pass, based on the most advanced continental models which the extensive researches of my hon’ble friend may open up to him, they cannot be permitted to have any retrospective effect. The sentiment of a civilized community would rise in revolt against any retrospective legislation. Whatever laws you pass cannot affect the existing pukka buildings of Calcutta. It is not laws, but funds that are needed. You have to open up the congested areas of Burra Bazar and Jora Bagan. The Government ought to recognize its responsibility in the matter. Calcutta is the capital of the Province and of the Empire, and the responsibility of the Government to open up the congested parts of the Metropolis was fully recognized, so far back as 1805 by Lord Wellesley, but it has merely been a recognition in name—no practical effect has been given to it. The question of structural improvements is a financial and not a constitutional question, and it is to be solved, not by depriving the Corporation of its constitution, but by providing funds. My hon’ble friend, the Member representing the Chamber was good enough to express much sympathy with the building regulations. Will the mercantile community consent to the imposition of the Octroi? In Bombay the Octroi duties come up to about nine lakhs of rupees a year. If we had such a fund at our disposal at Calcutta, the financial difficulty, which is the difficulty in connection with this and most other problems, would have disappeared.

“But, Sir, it has been said that the constitution of the Municipality does not ensure prompt and continuous Executive action. Sir, if there has been any failure in this respect, I have no hesitation in saying that the Government is responsible for it. The Government appoints the Chairman. Since 1890, we have had five Chairmen—in eight years we have had five Chairmen. How can you possibly expect prompt and continuous Executive action when the Head of the Executive is being constantly changed? And, Sir, the duties of the Chairman of the Corporation are of an onerous description. They are very different from the duties that ordinarily appertain to district administration. They have to be learnt, and by the time the Chairman has learnt them, a new incumbent appears on the scene to relieve him of his responsibilities! How can you possibly expect Executive vigour and efficiency under such a state of things? Did the great and distinguished men, who in the past have filled the office of Chairman, ever complain of the weakness of their position—was ever such a

complaint uttered by men like Sir Henry Harrison, Mr. Beverley, Mr. Cotton or Mr. William Souttar? If Sir Henry Harrison at all thought that his position was weak as Chairman, nothing could have been easier for him than to have amended the law when he was in charge of the Bill in 1888, on the lines now suggested.

"Further, it has been observed that the Municipality has no constitution, and that it is all fluid and indefinite and that it is impossible to fix responsibility. Sir, I must be permitted to express my surprise at this statement. Why, Sir, in section 4 and in subsequent sections of the Municipal Act we have sketched out for us the outlines of a firm, clear and consistent constitution. You may not like it—you may disapprove of it. All that I can understand, but the constitution is there, set forth in clear and definite lines which any one who runs may read. Equally extraordinary is the statement that it is difficult to fix responsibility. Well, Sir, I have been connected with the Corporation for the last 22 years. I have been associated with numerous Committees of enquiry connected with various departments of the Corporation, and speaking for myself, and I may add on behalf of my colleagues, I will say this—that we have never had the smallest difficulty in fixing responsibility for the various sins of omission and commission that were discovered. Why, Sir, only the other day we had a Committee enquiring into the Warrant Department, and we had not the smallest difficulty in finding out who were to blame and who were not to blame. In this connection, I would desire to call attention to a Note issued by Sir Henry Harrison, delegating his powers to his subordinates and fixing their responsibility. For the first time under the Act of 1888, the Chairman was empowered to delegate his powers to his subordinates—he did not possess this power under the Act of 1876 or under the still earlier Act of 1863. On the passing of the Act of 1888 Sir Henry Harrison drew out a statement assigning duties and fixing responsibility with that statesmanlike breadth and sagacity for which he was so conspicuous. I will read an extract or two from this statement:—

'The *Secretary* is empowered to sign all letters issuing on behalf of the Commissioners, or of the Chairman, and all orders, after satisfying himself that the order has been passed by an officer entrusted with due authority to pass it. He is entrusted with the seal of the Corporation and with the custody of valuable documents, contracts and records. He will expressly see that all notices of meetings are duly issued, and that the terms of the Act regarding such notices are complied with.

'The *Engineer* will exercise the powers necessary for the efficient performance of the duties of a Chief Engineer in a large City. He will directly supervise and control what are ordinarily known as the Water Works Department, the Drainage Department and the Road Superintendent's Department. He will also have under his orders the Workshop Superintendent and Workshop Establishment, the Municipal Railway Establishment and the Salt Water Lake Establishment. The maintenance and repairs of all the municipal buildings and machinery is also placed under his general supervision.

'*Drainage Inspector*.—Section 290 (inspect drains, &c., issue one hour's notice of intention to clean out drain and remedy defect).

'Of course, it does not follow that these subordinates will always exercise, *without reference to the Engineer*, the powers assigned to them; the Engineer should make them clearly understand that they should always consult him in all matters of importance as heretofore, and he will be generally responsible to the Commissioners and myself for all orders issued by his subordinates. The object of assigning power is not to limit responsibility, but to enable the subordinate's action to be legally valid. The same remark applies to the powers conferred on the Engineer.

'The *Health Officer* will, in a general way, exercise the powers necessary for the efficient performance of the duties of the Chief Executive Officer of Health in a large city. He will directly supervise and control what are ordinarily known as the Conservancy Department, the Nuisance Department, and the Bustee and Sanitary Departments. He will also have under his orders the Assistant Health Officer and his own office, the Food Inspectors, the Medical Inspectors, the Analyst to the Corporation, the Deputy Superintendent of Vaccination and his establishment, all officers and subordinates engaged in the registration of births and deaths, whether at the registration offices or at the burning-ghats and burial grounds, the Gowkhanna Superintendent and establishments, and the Superintendent of the Slaughter-house. All the markets of the town are also placed under his general supervision.'

"Now I ask could there be anything more clear and definite than this delegation of duties, and the responsibility which such delegation necessarily involves, and yet it is said that it is difficult to know where the responsibility resides?

"Thus it will be seen that the grounds upon which it is sought to justify the supersession of the Calcutta Municipality will not stand the test of scrutiny. When tried in the crucible of reason and common sense, they vanish into thin air. You propose to give us the constitution of the Bombay Municipality. But the fact is overlooked that the entire system of Local Self-Government in Bombay is retrograde when compared with the system which prevails in these Provinces. You, Sir, very well remember the attitude of the Bombay Government in regard to Lord Ripon's scheme of Local Self-Government, and the remonstrance which has become historical which as Home Secretary you addressed to that Government. I will read an extract from your letter:—

'The Governor General in Council is at a loss to conceive what can have led the Government of Bombay to suppose that the Government of India had any intention either of subverting altogether the existing system in Bombay, or of conferring unlimited powers upon municipalities and local boards. In the separate communication to the Government of Bombay noted on the margin, stress is laid upon the advantages which the existence of a widely spread system of municipal and local fund boards gave to that Presidency in following out of the principles advocated by the Supreme Government. Not subversion but adaptation and expansion of existing arrangements was what the Government of India desired. Furthermore the powers which it is proposed to entrust to local boards are not in any sense unlimited, but are in fact most strictly limited.

"In such an insalubrious atmosphere, with the weight of official opinion arrayed against it, the tender plant of Local Self-Government could not thrive, and the whole scheme is conceived upon lines far less liberal than what we find in Bengal. Here, Sir, in Bengal in most Mufassal Municipalities, two-thirds of the members are elected; in Bombay, only one-half of the members are elected. In most Mufassal Municipalities in Bengal, the Chairmen are elected; in most Mufassal Municipalities in the Bombay Presidency, the Chairmen are nominated. As in the interior, so in the Presidency town, the system suffers by comparison with that of Bengal. In 1865 the Bombay Municipality was constituted upon a basis which made the Chairman the autocrat, or as my hon'ble friend, the Member for the Corporation, said the other day—'the despot of the situation.' The system hopelessly broke down after a short trial. It brought the Corporation to the verge of bankruptcy, and this autocratic system had to be abandoned, and the Municipal Administration was re-cast in 1872 upon more liberal lines. The Act of 1872 was amended by the present Bombay Act, and it was passed on the clear understanding, at any rate, on the part of the Indian Members of Council, that the Corporation was to exercise general control over the Executive, that it was to supervise, direct and guide the Executive. This was what the Hon'ble Mr. Telang said:—

'Mr. Pherozshah and myself are most anxious that there should not be any interference with the Executive functions of the Commissioner. We only want that it should be subject to the general control of the Municipal Corporation, and that is substantially provided for in the present Bill. I am not prepared to admit that, under the sections of the Bill as we have passed them, the Commissioner is what is called a co-ordinate authority. I do not think he is. That is not a correct description of his position under the Bill. I understand he is a subordinate in every respect except as regard the details of Executive work, in which he is untrammelled and not to be interfered with. That is his position, and that is what it ought to be.'

"The Hon'ble MR. MEHTA expressed himself very much to the same effect:—

'The greatest work that the Corporation has yet undertaken—the construction of the Tansa Water Works—was undertaken by it, not at the initiation of the Municipal Commissioner, but of one of its own members. I could multiply these instances; but I think I have said enough to show that the credit of this remarkable success justly belongs, in the main, to the constitutional scheme under which the Corporation carries on the administration by the hands of its Executive Officer, constantly and continuously controlling, criticising, supervising and directing him. To revert from a scheme of such promise and performance to the discredited principles of the Act of 1865 would be a blunder indeed.'

"This idea of providing the Calcutta Municipality with the constitution of the Bombay Municipality is not a new one. History has a tendency to repeat itself. Human events move in cycles. So far back as 23 years ago, Mr. Schalch from his place in this Council proposed the adoption of the Bombay Municipal Constitution. The proposal was objected to by Rai Kristo Das Pal Bahadur as a half-measure—it was vehemently opposed by Mr. Stuart Hogg, then Chairman

of the Corporation; and the opposition it elicited was so strong that the proposal was not even formulated in the shape of a definite resolution.

“Sir, it is worthy of remark that the Bombay Municipal Bill, which is to furnish the model for our Municipal Constitution, was stoutly opposed at the third reading of the Bill by Mr. Forbes Adams. Mr. Forbes Adams was afterwards knighted for his distinguished services, and was the representative of the non-official European community in the Bombay Council. This was what he said:—

‘After the full discussion which has taken place during the debate on the amendments, it may perhaps be thought superfluous that anything should now be said. I cannot, however, refrain from taking advantage of this opportunity to observe that much as I hope that the Bill now about to be read a third time may be found in practice to work smoothly and satisfactorily, I harbour and entertain grave misgivings. I regret that Your Excellency’s Council has not seen its way to give such consistency and all-pervadingness to the great central principle of the Bill—the principle that the Corporation is the governing body—that no possibility of question, uncertainty or clashing could hereafter arise. The idea of co-ordinate authority seems to me to be fraught with chance of friction and irritation. It is an attempt to reconcile what is irreconcilable. It possesses the elements of unsettlement and feud. I firmly believe the Bill might throughout all its sections have emphasised and accentuated its central principle without running the slightest danger of fettering or interfering unduly with the Commissioner in carrying out the details of the Executive work of the Municipality.’

“We deplore the want of interest on the part of the European community in our municipal concerns. We should rejoice if they could be persuaded to co-operate with us in our municipal work. But the Hon’ble Member in charge of the Bill completely misses the fundamental conditions of the problem. I cordially acknowledge that Calcutta owes its greatness to a considerable extent to European trade and commerce; but it is not to be forgotten that European merchants come here for a particular purpose, viz., their business; and it is no part of their business to feel an interest in the insanitary drains and *bustees* which may abound in Burra Bazar and Jora Bagan. Their business is all-engrossing, and in these days of keen competition leaves them no time for other and weighty public affairs. Our laws indeed bear traces of the efforts of the Legislature to enlist the sympathies and to secure the co-operation of the European community in the municipal work of the town. Under the Act of 1876, the southern wards of the town inhabited by Europeans had each the right of sending three Commissioners to the Corporation, while the northern wards each sent only two Commissioners. The experiment did not succeed. Under the Act of 1888, special constituencies were created for the benefit of the European community. The experiment again did not succeed; and now we are embarked upon another experiment, upon somewhat different lines, but in the same direction. Well, Sir, I am not a prophet. Prophecy is a dangerous art. No one ought to prophesy unless he knows; and for myself from my place in this Council, surrounded by the legislative wisdom of this Province, I have no desire to assume the prophetic function. But if our experience of the past is any guide for the future, then I have no hesitation in saying that as our experiments in this direction have not hitherto been attended with success, we cannot hope for a better result from the new one which we are about to try. My hon’ble friend, the Member representing the Chamber of Commerce, is confident of success. He is more fortunately situated than myself. To him has been vouchsafed the gift of the seer which is denied to the less gifted children of the 19th Century. Sir, I am not singular in the opinion which I hold as to the hopelessness of the task which the Hon’ble Member in charge of the Bill has undertaken in legislating with a view to secure the co-operation of the European community in the work of the Municipality. Let me place before the Council the views of two high officials in this connection. This was what Sir Henry Harrison said from his place in the Bengal Council:—

‘Again if I had any hope that the European Members would take the same interest as the native members, I should be more disposed to yield to the Hon’ble Mr. Irving’s argument, but I am afraid we must put this aside as really out of the question. I believe that to some extent they have been kept away from the meetings by finding they are in a minority, but at the same time they have also found that it was impossible for them to give the same attention to the work of the Municipality as those who have ample leisure and to whom it is almost a pleasure. There are a certain number of leisured gentlemen among the native Commissioners who have often come two, three or four times a week to Committee meetings to do work

which is certainly not of transcendental interest. Now is it possible to hope that we can get European gentlemen who have business to attend, to whom time is money, to attend and take part in work of this nature?

"A higher authority than even that of Sir Henry Harrison, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, spoke in the same strain. Sir Steuart Bayley, as President of the Council, observed:—

'My own fear is just the contrary—that you will never be able to get the representatives of commerce to go out of their way to bring their knowledge and practical ability to bear on the affairs of the town. I wish it could be otherwise.'

"What do we find in Bombay under the operation of the Act which is to supersede our law and which, it is said, is calculated to ensure the co-operation of the European community in our municipal affairs? Why, Sir, the average attendance of the Indian element is higher than the average attendance of the European Members of the Corporation. Here is a statement which I have obtained from Bombay:—

'There were 59 Corporation meetings in 1895-96. The rate of average native attendance at these meetings was 64 against 54 of Europeans.'

'In 1896-97 there were 56 Corporation meetings, the rate of average native attendance was 56 against 41 of Europeans.'

"It will be seen that the attendance of Europeans was much higher for 1895-96 than for 1896-97. The difference is easily explained. Dr. Blainey, one of the most active European Members of the Corporation, resigned in 1896, and there was a perceptible falling-off in the average attendance.

"And now, Sir, with your permission, I desire to advert for a moment to the speech of the Hon'ble Member representing the Chamber of Commerce. I must deprecate the tone and the style of that speech. My hon'ble friend professed great admiration for the speech of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill. Admiration is best expressed by imitation. The Hon'ble Member representing the Chamber did not, however, imitate the conciliatory attitude of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill. His speech, I regret to have to say, is objectionable both in matter as well as in manner. Many of the statements which he put forward as facts are not facts, and the whole drift of his speech is misleading. I am sure when my hon'ble friend has heard me, he will come to the conclusion that he has done scant justice to the Corporation, and I have no doubt he will see his way to modify his opinions. I desire to invite the attention of the Council to his statement of facts. My hon'ble friend observed in regard to the drainage scheme of the added area that a standing committee of business-men would have finished in seven months a work over which the Corporation spent seven years. Surely my friend could not possibly have known all the facts when he hazarded this prophecy. The scheme embraced an area of 15 square miles and was originally estimated to cost one crore and seventy lakhs of rupees. The Commissioners consulted Mr. Hughes and Mr. Baldwin Latham, the greatest drainage expert in the world. They carefully considered the matter with the result that they reduced the estimate from one crore and seventy lakhs to seventy-six lakhs—they saved nearly a crore of the rate-payers' money. My hon'ble friend will admit that any business-firm which after seven years' deliberation could save a crore of rupees would be justified in congratulating itself upon the result. Seven years' deliberation terminating in the saving of a crore of rupees is deliberation fruitful of economy, of which any business-firm might well be proud. It is perfectly true that the Commissioners were censured for their delay in this matter by the Government of Sir Charles Elliott; but it is equally true that they were absolved from all blame by the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

"Let me read to you an extract from the Resolution of the Government:—

'For this reason, although the subject has been discussed in the newspapers and incidentally referred to in the Administration Reports of the Commissioners for the last five years, no continuous history of the various phases of the discussion, and no final expression of the views of the Corporation as a whole, has yet been laid before Government. Had such a record of facts and opinions been before Sir Charles Elliott, when he recorded his Resolution of the 8th November, 1895, it seems to the present Lieutenant-Governor to be doubtful whether the general condemnation of the supposed inaction of the Commissioners in respect of the drainage question, which is contained in the first paragraph of the Resolution, would not have been qualified by some reference to the intrinsic difficulty of the problem and the conflicting opinions expressed by the technical advisers of the Corporation.'

“And again :—

“In their joint report on the drainage question Messrs. Hughes and Kimber, after full consideration, and with a knowledge of the facts necessarily much more minute than Mr. Latham could have acquired during his brief visit to Calcutta, reject as based upon incomplete or erroneous data, the main feature of his scheme, and conclude that it is impossible to construct an open low-level reservoir for the discharge, by gravitation, of the combined sewage and rainfall of Calcutta. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion this fact, taken with the reduction or the estimate made by Mr. Kimber from 170 lakhs to less than 79 lakhs, is in itself sufficient to show that, so far as the drainage question is concerned, neither the Corporation nor their Chairman can fairly be charged with unreasonable delay in arriving at a decision on an engineering problem of exceptional difficulty. Had they accepted and proceeded to carry out Mr. Baldwin Latham's scheme, with no more deliberation than was enjoined on them by irresponsible opinion in Calcutta (The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee here said :—“You, Sir, referring to the Hon'ble Mr. Turner, the Member for the Chamber, have made yourself the exponent in this Council of this irresponsible opinion”) they would have committed themselves to a project which would have been more than double of that now put before them, and which might not in certain essential features have fully met the circumstances of the case.”

“Then, again, my hon'ble friend referred to the reduction of Rs. 30,000 in the Health Officer's budget. If he knew all the facts in connection with this reduction, I am sure instead of blame he would have bestowed praise upon the Commissioners. The facts are these :—The year was a year of unusual financial depression. Mr. Lee, the Chairman, of his own motion and without any pressure from the Commissioners, asked the Heads of Departments to reduce their budgets. The Assistant Health Officer, who was then officiating for the Health Officer, cut down his budget by Rs. 56,000. In the meantime Dr. Simpson returned to his duties. He thought the reduction had been carried too far, and cut it down to Rs. 46,000. Now mark what the Commissioners did when the matter came up before them for consideration. They raised the expenditure of the Health Department and would not consent to reduce it to below Rs. 30,000. Now let me ask my hon'ble friend whether after this explanation he does not think that the Commissioners were worthy of praise rather than of blame for the part they took in this matter? Reference has been made to the reduction of Rs. 16,000 for road scraping. It is perfectly true the Commissioners cut down this amount, but surely not on the ground of economy. They insisted upon the road-scraping being removed by their own conservancy carts. They objected to this work being done by hired carts for which Rs. 16,000 had been provided, on the ground that the work was badly done and the Corporation did not get an adequate return for the money spent. Subsequently the Commissioners granted a sum of Rs. 7,000 for road-scraping. My hon'ble friend has referred to a sum of Rs. 8,000 which had been disallowed for the conservancy arrangements of the added area. Here again the Hon'ble Member is ignorant of the facts of the case. A sum of Rs. 13,000 had been provided for the conservancy arrangements of this part of the town. In the middle of the year after the budget had been framed, a further sum of Rs. 8,000 was asked. Mr. Ritchie, the Chairman, himself said that the Commissioners could not grant this extra sum. In judging of the policy of the Commissioners in connection with the Health Officer's Department, it is not surely fair to pick out an item of expenditure here and an item there, and say that the Commissioners have not done their duty. The whole expenditure on the Health Officer's Department extending over a series of years can alone give a correct view of the policy which the Commissioners have followed in this matter. I have drawn up a table of expenditure extending from 1889-90 to 1896-97; and what do we find from it? A scale of expenditure progressively increasing with the growing sanitary requirements of the town and the financial ability of the Corporation to meet them. In 1889-90, the expenditure on the Health Officer's Department was Rs. 9,27,947; in 1890-91 it was 9,27,446. Now take the last two years of the period. In 1895-96 the expenditure was Rs. 10,19,739; in 1896-97 it was Rs. 10,96,357 or nearly 11 lakhs of rupees. Thus the expenditure has been steadily progressing with the expansion of the sanitary needs of Calcutta. One item more, and I have finished my examination of the distinct allegations my hon'ble friend has thought fit to make against the Corporation. He has referred to an item of Rs. 50 which the Commissioners disallowed, although the money had been paid by the Chairman, Mr. Ritchie, or Mr. Wilson, who was then a candidate for the Gowkhana Superintendentship. The Hon'ble Member possibly referred to

this matter as an instance of financial meanness on the part of the Commissioners. Here, again, he displays only a superficial knowledge of the facts of the case. The Commissioners had no option left in the matter. Under the law they were bound to disallow the sum, and Mr. Ritchie himself admitted that the Commissioners were in the right and that he was in the wrong. This was what he said about the matter at the meeting of the Commissioners:—

‘Since the Resolution was passed (by the General Committee) he had enquired what would have been done in Government service under similar circumstances—what view would the Accountant-General take of an item such as this, and Mr. Ritchie was bound to say that the answer was it would probably not have been sanctioned. He thought that in most matters he as well as the Commissioners could not do better than to follow the procedure of the Government who dealt with many similar cases, and he had therefore caused the amount to be refunded.’

“Sir, my hon’ble friend has referred to a communication of the Chamber of Commerce addressed to the Government, dated the 10th July, 1895. In that communication the Chamber complained of the increase of typhoid fever in Calcutta. On the matter being inquired into, it was found that there had been no increase of typhoid fever, and the Government in its reply to the Chamber censured the Health Officer for lending the weight of his name to the spread of a false rumour. I will read an extract from the letter of Government:—

‘It is a matter of much regret that after lending the weight of his authority to the statement that typhoid fevers are largely increasing in Calcutta, the Health Officer should have neglected to comply with the request that the grounds of that opinion might be fully set forth. Owing to this omission it is impossible, as the matter now stands, to arrive at any certain or even probable conclusion on the important question whether the increase in fever mortality which has occurred during the last three years in Calcutta is due to purely local causes which admit of being diminished or removed, or to general causes affecting the whole surrounding country, which it would be vain to attempt to cope with. The position is a very unsatisfactory one, and illustrates the damage that may be done to sanitary progress by making vague general assertions and withholding the evidence upon which they are based.’

“One other remark I desire to make in connection with the speech of the Hon’ble Member representing the Chamber. He observed that the present Bill provided for a fair representation of all sections of the community in the Corporation. Does he regard it as a fair representation of the rate-payers that on the General Committee they should be represented by only one-third of the entire number—is it fair that those who pay the maximum of taxation should have the minimum of representation? Such an arrangement, I am sure, will not recommend itself to our sense of justice and fair play.

“Well, Sir, we have been told that under the proposed law there will be 75 Commissioners as before, and that the conditions of the franchise and of the distribution of the wards will remain unaltered. The Commissioners will vote the Budget, fix the rates and then—I was going to say—go to sleep. Their function will be like that of the gods of the Epicureans of old as described by Cicero in his *De Natura deorum*—they created the world and then went to sleep. The gist of the proposed changes may be summarized as follows:—The transfer of all authority from the representatives of the rate-payers to the official representative of the Government and to the representatives of the European mercantile community. The supreme power of the Corporation will be gone—Local Self-Government will be gone. Far better would it be to do away with this semblance of a show—this mockery of Local Self-Government—and convert the Calcutta Municipality into a Government bureau, controlled and directed by the Government.

“Let me observe that in all European countries which have any form of Municipal Government, the supreme authority is always vested in the Corporation. This is what Mr. Albert Shaw says in his well-known book:—

‘Municipal Governments, elsewhere than in the United States, after having constituted a ruling body, do not erect a separate one-man power and give it the means to obstruct the ruling administrative body and to diminish its scope and responsibility. The Mayor elsewhere is an integral part of the Council. English, Scotch and Irish Municipal Government is simply government by a group of men who are to be regarded as a grand Committee of the Corporation—the Corporation consisting of the whole body of burgesses or qualified citizens. In Glasgow it is a Committee of seventy-eight; in Edinburgh, of forty-one; in Manchester, of one hundred and four; in Birmingham, of seventy-two; in Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield and most of the large English towns, of sixty-four; in Dublin, of sixty; in Belfast, of forty; and in the other incorporated towns of the United Kingdom it varies from twelve

to sixty-four, according to their size. So far as these bodies have authority to pass bye-laws at all, their authority is complete, and nobody obtrudes a veto. They appoint and remove all officials. They have entire charge of Municipal Administration, distributing the work of departmental management and supervision to Standing Committees of their own number which they organize and constitute as they please. If such a Local Government cannot be trusted, the fault is with popular institutions. It is quite certain to be as good a government as the people concerned deserve to have. The location of responsibility is perfectly definite.

"Municipal Government in America is differently constituted. It is organized up in lines which we are very unwisely going to imitate in the Bill before us, and the municipal system in America, according to Mr. Albert Shaw, is a failure. This is what he says in his book:—

"The typical American Mayor is no part of the Council or its organization. He is elected directly by the people. He is an independent co-ordinate authority. He bears somewhat the same relation to the Council that the President of the United States sustains towards Congress or the Governor of a State towards the Legislature. The analogy falls short, however, in the very important practical fact that the work of Congress and the State Legislature is principally that of legislation, while the work of Municipal Councils is of necessity principally that of administration. The theoretical independence and distinct executive responsibility of the President and the Governors is extremely difficult to maintain in practice, for the line between legislative and administrative work and authority is not at all distinct. Still more difficult is it in practice to apportion duties and responsibility between an American Mayor and the Common Council in such a way as to secure real efficiency on both sides. It is not easy to see where in the nature of things, the proper functions of one authority end, and those of the other begin. In the dispersion of authority, definite responsibility too easily disappears. The embarrassments and opportunities growing out of this divided responsibility are among the principal causes of the comparative failure of City Government in the United States."

"Here in Calcutta the authority of the Corporation has always been supreme since there has been a Corporation. This has been the constitution of the Municipality ever since 1863. Every time the constitution has come under consideration, this principle has been recognized. It was first affirmed by the Act of 1863; it was re-affirmed in 1876; it was again affirmed in 1888, and under this constitution the Municipality has introduced those vast and stupendous sanitary works which have changed the face of Calcutta. If we had a *tabula rasa* upon which we might inscribe what we pleased, there might have been perhaps little room for complaint. But a constitution is a growth—in the words of Edmund Burke, the greatest political Philosopher the world has ever seen—it is an organic growth; and let me ask my hon'ble friend, the Member in charge of the Bill, whether he regards the Bombay Municipal Act as the natural and the most recent development of our municipal system? If not, it is a foreign body—an extraneous excrescence—sought to be engrafted upon our municipal system, and as such it is doomed—fore-doomed to failure.

"Sir, I base my objection to the Bill upon the highest considerations of expediency. The Bill, if passed into law, would lead to the dispersion of all sense of responsibility on the part of the Executive and would operate as a hardship upon the poorer sections of the community, whose well-being ought to be the supreme concern of all Governments. Under the existing law the authority of the Corporation is supreme. To the Corporation, the Chairman and the General Committee are responsible. To whom will they be responsible under the new law? To none—they will be responsible only to their own consciences—the divine monitor within; and, Sir, power vested in the best and the wisest amongst us is liable to be abused when adequate provision is not made for bringing home a sense of responsibility. There will, under the new law, be three co-ordinate authorities, forming part and parcel of the same system, moving in their own appointed spheres, without any central or controlling force. Why, Sir, the material universe could not endure under such a system. The same principle dominates the world of man's actions. The Bill, as I have remarked, will be a prolific source of oppression practised upon the poor. The Chairman cannot possibly perform all his vast and varied functions. He will have to delegate his duties to his subordinates in an endless chain. The Executive will thus include the municipal underlings, and we know who and what they are. They are just as unpopular as the police, and their purity is on a par with that of the police. But they are far more meddlesome and mischievous. Their duties affecting the daily lives and habits of the people afford them

the amplest opportunity for black-mailing. Now a remedy is provided by the appellate and revisional jurisdiction of the Corporation which may be invoked by any Commissioner. But when this power is taken away from the Corporation, these underlings will be the virtual masters of the situation—the lords of all they survey—their right none to dispute,—and the lot of the poor man hard as it is in Calcutta, will become harder still.

“Sir, I desire to say one word with regard to the constitution and the powers of the General Committee. Under the present law the General Committee consists of 18 members elected by the Corporation and is responsible to the Corporation. Under the proposed law the General Committee will consist of 12 members, of whom only four will be elected by the Corporation. The General Committee will be entrusted with the details of administration in a variety of important matters. The Corporation will have to find the funds. The Corporation having under the new system no part in the actual work of administration and therefore unfamiliar with the requirements of the administration, may vote inadequate finds, and then the Government, like the *deus ex machina* of the old dramas, will descend on the scene to avert a crisis. Here we have an *imperium in imperio* with a vengeance, with all the worst evils of that system, accentuated in their gravest form. Let us hear what a Bombay paper which you, Sir, very rightly described from your place in the Supreme Council as being distinguished for sobriety and moderation—the *Indian Spectator*—says with regard to this aspect of the Bill:—

‘The division is a queer one, involving a logical fallacy, for, are not merchants too residents? Our Standing Committee is elected by the Corporation, as a whole, and so there is no friction. The General Committee, as sketched out in the words of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, quoted above, would be, as it seems at first sight, an anomaly, an *imperium in imperio*, and the work of dividing the responsibilities between the two bodies to be created on the one hand, and between them and the Chairman, on the other, would surely tax ingenuity. If the Budget and the rate of taxation is to be fixed by the Corporation, if the strings of the purse are to be in their hands exclusively, we do not see how a body that is not their representative can help becoming often a stumbling block in the way of smooth working.’

“Sir, it has been said with regard to the Committees of the Corporation that they hamper work and cause delay. The statement is founded upon an entire misconception of the situation. These Committees facilitate work and avoid a good deal of discussion which otherwise would be inevitable at meetings of the Commissioners. ‘In 19 cases out of 20’ said Sir Henry Harrison from his place in this Council, ‘the decisions of Committees are accepted without any discussion. Nor do these Committees cause any delay when the Chairman is in agreement with them, and this is usually the case; for then his proposals may at once be given effect to.’ In this connection there is one aspect of the question which this Council cannot overlook and which I am sure Your Honour will not overlook when we bear in mind the eloquent words which you addressed as Home Secretary to the various Local Governments, impressing upon them the importance of fostering the beginnings of Local Self-Government, as an instrument of popular and political education. These Committees familiarise the Commissioners with the work of the Corporation, inspire them with a sense of responsibility and promote the ends of political education.

“Lastly the Government has assumed to itself functions which do not belong to it under the present law. I thought, Sir, that decentralization was the order of the day. But I presume it is decentralization when power is to be delegated to officials or official bodies, and it is centralization when power has to be withdrawn from popular bodies. Here is a statement which I have drawn up showing the powers and functions which the Government proposes to assume under the Bill:—

‘Under the present law the Local Government can take action direct, and of its own motion in 20 cases. Under the *proposed law* the Local Government can take action direct and of its own motion in 35 cases. The new powers given to the Local Government among others are:—

- (1) To appoint four members to the General Committee.
- (2) To fix the salary of the Chairman.
- (3) To appoint the Deputy Chairman and fix his salary.
- (4) To grant leave of absence to Chairman and Deputy Chairman.
- (5) To remove a Commissioner's disqualification by an order of the Local Government.

- (6) To make rules prescribing qualifications of candidates for employment in the Health Department, Engineering Department, Conservancy Department, also make rules providing for occasional or periodical inspection of any Department of the Corporation by officers of Government.
- (7) Resolutions of General Committee appointing Sub-Committees to be forwarded to Local Government.
- (8) Minutes of all proceedings of Corporation, General Committee and Sub-Committees to be sent to Local Government.
- (9) The Local Government may require the Chairman to undertake the execution of any work certified by a Secretary of the Government to be urgent for public service and for this purpose may make temporary payment from Municipal Funds.
- (10) If any difference of opinion arises between the General Committee and the Corporation touching Budget allotments, the Chairman shall refer the matter to the Local Government and its decision to be final.
- (11) To exempt the owner or occupier of any building or land from the payment of consolidated rate, if recommended by any two authorities.

“Sir, I do not propose to detain you any longer. It is not for one moment to be supposed that I regard the present constitution of the Calcutta Municipality as perfect. Far from it. It is capable of improvement, but it does not lie in the directions indicated in the Bill. The Bill has been launched in the name of sanitation. Could we persuade ourselves to believe that it would promote sanitation and thus confer an unmixed benefit upon the people, what could be more natural than that we should support a measure, so wise in its scope—so beneficent in its intentions. For Calcutta is the city of our birth—it is the city of our sires—it is the city of our children—and it is to be the destined city of our children’s children. We have a far more permanent and abiding interest in its sanitary well-being than any other section of the community could possibly have. We would welcome any rational scheme of sanitation which would bring to our people an accession of health and all the blessings which the possession of health implies. But we are persuaded that this Bill will not promote this great object. It is not laws but funds that are needed for the structural improvement of Calcutta. We have had of recent years too many laws. We want rest, peace, the repose of peace, freedom from the excitement consequent upon new proposals for the enactment of new laws. It is money and not a change in the constitution of the Municipality that is required for the sanitation of Calcutta. Sir, I speak not as an amateur or a theorist, but as one who has some practical familiarity with municipal work. I have spent the best part of my life-time in the service of the Corporation. I entered it when young. I have grown grey in its service. The work of the Corporation has been the pleasure and the pride of my life. I have behind me an experience of nearly 25 years. Fortified by that experience, I venture to make an earnest appeal to you, Sir, whose name is so honourably associated with the great scheme of Local Self-Government, to abandon or at any rate largely to modify a measure which has filled the rate-payers of Calcutta with alarm, which will not promote the ends of sanitation, which will depreciate the value of property, disorganize the work of the Corporation and wreck the best prospects of Local Self-Government in the capital of the Indian Empire. Sir, I might put my case upon still higher considerations. Municipal institutions, said Mr. Gladstone, are the seed-plots upon which and around which are developed that political capacity and those habits of political thought which ought to be the supreme concern of all Governments to foster and to promote. Our municipal institutions are the gift of our rulers. We owe them to their beneficence. But they have taken firm root in our hearts and our convictions, for they are in entire accord with our ancient traditions and the inherited instincts of our race, fostered by the *panchayat* system and our time-honoured village organisations. We cherish them with reverence. The love and devotion of a people cling to them. They supplement our education; for what nobler school could there be than the school of public affairs! These noble seminaries inspire the people with a sense of responsibility, exercise a moderating influence upon their minds, and enlist their sympathies on behalf of the Government. It would be most unwise, most unstatesmanlike, in these days of political unrest and excitement, to do aught which would in the least impair the utility of these institutions or shake public confidence in them. We are the friends of sanitation; but the worship of sanitation may be carried to the verge of idolatry. We agree with

Sir Ashley Eden in thinking that a single case where native society is persuaded by conviction to adopt a sanitary reform is worth hundred cases where such reform is forced upon it by the pressure of external circumstances. Sir, greatly as we value sanitation, we are not prepared to sacrifice our civic freedom for its sake, especially when such a sacrifice is unnecessary and uncalled for, and when it will prove disastrous to the fortunes of our people in other, higher and nobler directions."

"The Hon'ble MR. SPINK said:—"The chief among the interests to be maintained by the Municipality are those of the European community, and it assuredly never was intended that the management of the affairs of this great and growing City should pass into the hands of one section only of the community. Europeans have been reproached for not coming forward in the past to take an interest in municipal affairs and to share in the work of the Municipality. The accusation is an unjust one. The gradual falling off of the European element in the Corporation and in the General Committee can be readily explained. I need only refer you to the statistics furnished by the Hon'ble Mr. Risley to show how hopelessly Europeans have been placed in the minority by the operation of the existing laws. Even supposing they were more numerous, men of business cannot spare time to take part in the too often fruitless debates of a large talking body. They are always ready and willing to serve on business Committees, and I need only instance such bodies as the Port Commissioners, the Chamber of Commerce and its various Committees, and the Trades Association, to show that Europeans are willing to, and do devote their time to public questions. It is impossible, as things now stand, to get a sufficient number of Europeans to join the Corporation, and to give the Executive the benefit of their experience and their counsels. The one solution for the problem presented by this unsatisfactory condition of things is, in my opinion, to be found in the principle of the Bill now under discussion. It will secure for us a representative General Committee capable of performing its various duties in a prompt and businesslike way, and who, armed with a comprehensive and well-defined Act, will be able to carry out much-needed sanitary and structural reforms, and to administer the affairs of the town on sound and modern principles. Such a Committee, I take it, would represent more truly the voice of the people than the present one, and would be more truly based on the fundamental principles of Local Self-Government. It is not correct to say that the European community get better arranged streets and so on at the cost of the native ratepayer. If the native electorate had realised, as the Europeans did long ago, the advantage of wide, clean, and not too crowded streets, they would, in season and out of season, have striven to improve the insanitary conditions which prevail at the northern end of the town, and they would have insisted on their representatives paying attention to these matters rather than to others in which public time has been wasted in the discussion of questions concerning the erection of verandahs or the appointment of petty Municipal Officers. Once more it must not be forgotten that the introduction of the elective system into this country was an experiment with an educational object. Now, Sir, under the existing law, it is the return of Hindus, not of Europeans, that is really guaranteed. Whatever may be claimed on behalf of specially-gifted individuals, a people or a race cannot claim to be educated in the difficult art of Self-Government, in the brief space of some two decades. I venture to say that when regard is had to the commercial, trading and other interests implicated in the well-being of this great commercial centre, it is preposterous to put too large a measure of power into the hands of those who, it should be recognized, are still *in statu pupulari*. This object in view cannot be called retrograde. I confidently anticipate that when once this Bill becomes law, members of the European community will no longer be unwilling to take their place on the Municipal Board. Members of the trading firms of Calcutta who had previously withdrawn their names, have already come forward for election. The position of affairs will be completely changed, and Europeans who already recognise that their commerce and trade is threatened unless great sanitary and administrative reforms are introduced, will inaugurate the reforms which are so urgently needed."

"The Hon'ble SAHIBZADA MAHOMED BAKHTYAR SHAH said:—"Your Honour, It is quite needless for me to make a long speech in favour of the Bill. The Bill

supports itself. I have much pleasure in adding my small measure of assistance towards such a salutary and necessary piece of legislation. I, in common with all those who have any experience of the present condition of the city and of Municipal Government and who have the welfare of the town at heart, most sincerely wish this Bill the completest success. And I wish publicly to thank our retiring Lieutenant-Governor for this Bill which will perpetuate his memory in Calcutta."

The Hon'ble BABU KALI CHARAN BANERJEE said:—"I oppose this motion and shall be as brief as I possibly can in stating my reasons for doing so. I may premise that the object of the Bill is not to introduce provisions into the existing law which might be availed of on occasions of emergency; the proposal rather is to make that the standing law which is adapted only to emergencies. The object of the Bill is ostensibly twofold. First, to provide, as it is said, a responsible Executive, and secondly, to secure larger European representation. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, in clearing the way for his proposal, referred to certain discoveries that had been made, and argued that the only remedy that could be proposed, was a radical change in the law. He would not reflect on the work either of the Commissioners or of the Executive, as he thought such a change in the law did not necessarily imply any reflection. But, he said, times had changed, and so it had become necessary to change the law. Another Hon'ble Member has proceeded on the same lines and has referred to the age as an age of progress, and has justified the Bill on the ground that it proposes to keep pace with the progress of the times. If times have changed, the legitimate proposition to put forward in view of such change and progress would be that a further expansion of the principle of Local Self-Government was called for. The progress of the times could not by any means suggest that the principle of Local Self-Government should be, *not* extended or developed, but hampered, if not crushed altogether. For although, as I have said, the ostensible object of the Bill is to provide a responsible Executive, if we read the Bill, we cannot avoid coming to the conclusion that the object really is to provide, not a responsible, but an irresponsible Executive, unless it be an Executive with autonomous responsibility. If the object is to secure larger European representation, the provisions of the Bill force on the conclusion that the object is not the legitimate one of the protection of minorities, but the illegitimate one of the dominance of minorities. Thus in reality the Bill seeks to secure an irresponsible Executive, and a dominant minority. Both these principles I have no hesitation whatever in characterising as unsound. For, starting from the discoveries to which reference was made by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, the question has to be raised, how is the state of things so discovered to be accounted for? Is the Act really responsible for it, or something else? Reference was made, in the course of the Hon'ble Member's speech, to the desirability of harmony between the Administrative and the Executive section of the Corporation. Might it not be that the Executive, although under the law responsible to the Corporation, were not at all in a frame of mind to accept their responsibility to the Corporation? Might it not be that they fretted under a sense of their responsibility to the Corporation, and there was frequent friction between the Executive and the Corporation, resulting in the Act not working so satisfactorily as it might otherwise have. That this represents the true state of things, one may suspect from that portion in the speech of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill where he drifts somewhat into the pathetic and says:—"A Government Officer specially selected for this difficult and important post is placed in a wholly false position by the present law which makes him dependent on the good-will of the Commissioners for an addition to his pay which owing to the great cost of living in Calcutta, is in most cases no more than is required to save him from positive loss while holding the appointment of Chairman." This passage suggests, no doubt, a feeling on the part of Government officers so situated, which they do not at all relish, namely, a sense of dependence on the Corporation or a majority of native Commissioners. I would deprecate any provision of the law which accentuates racial differences and racial feelings. One other provision in the Bill, on the same lines, is that which transfers

from the main body of Commissioners to the General Committee the power of appointing the Secretary, the Engineer, the Surveyor, the Health Officer, the Collector, the Assessor, and other officers, the initial salary of whose appointments is Rs. 300 and upwards. If there has been friction in the work of the Corporation, that friction, I venture to say, has arisen from a desire to assert irresponsibility on the one hand, and a desire on the other hand to hold people to their responsibility. The Corporation have interfered with the Executive whenever the Executive have taken it upon themselves to do things which they were not entitled to do on their own motion, and with regard to which they were under the law subject to the Corporation. If that is the state of things, it will be disastrous to legalise the irresponsibility which has been the cause of the friction and has brought about a state of things which is to be deplored. It is said that the Bill defines the functions of the different municipal authorities which it brings into existence. It speaks of them as co-ordinate. Notwithstanding the statement that the Executive power is to be vested in the Chairman subject to the control of the Corporation where it is so expressly stated, the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill is perfectly correct in describing the authority sought to be conferred by this Bill on the Chairman as co-ordinate, because, if we go through the different sections of the Bill which the Hon'ble Member has been good enough to tabulate for us, and take up the sections in which the word 'sanction' or 'control' occurs, we find that it is only in connection with three or four points that any real control has been left in the Corporation, namely, the selection of the Bank, for example, in which Municipal Funds can be deposited, the taking of a census, the provision of new burial and burning places, and the establishment of markets, either municipal or private. These are, I believe, the only four matters in regard to which the Corporation will exercise anything like control over the action of the Chairman. Therefore, it is clear that the two authorities will really be co-ordinate, and I submit that it is an unsound principle to have two or more co-ordinate authorities of this description. Their functions are defined, it is said well, the functions of the Chairman are defined, but they are defined into a plenum. The functions of the Corporation are also defined, but they are defined into a vacuum.

"Then, there is another object for which the Bill provides, namely, a larger measure of European representation. The object, I contend is not to protect the interests of European minority, but to help the European minority to dominate. With regard to this, let us see what the Bill provides. There are to be 75 Commissioners altogether, out of whom 60 shall be elected as follows:—50 at ward elections, 4 by the Chamber of Commerce, 4 by the Trades Association, and 2 by the Port Commissioners. The remaining 15 are to be nominated by the Local Government. Then we come to the constitution of the General Committee. How is that provided for? The General Committee is to consist of 12 ordinary members and of the Chairman who shall be President of the Committee. They are to be Commissioners, and therefore, these 12 Commissioners shall be 12 out of the 75 Commissioners. They are to be elected and appointed as follows:—4 by the Commissioners elected at ward elections, that is to say, 4 out of the 50 elected Ward Commissioners. Then 2 shall be elected by the Chamber of Commerce. It is not clear whether these 2 are to be elected by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce or by the 4 Commissioners who represent the Chamber of Commerce; any way these 2 must be 2 out of the 4 elected by the Chamber, because the provision is that the 12 members on the General Committee shall be Commissioners. Thus 4 of the Commissioners elected by the Chamber will elect 2 members for the General Committee. Then, one member of the General Committee will be elected by the Trades Association; they return 4 members to the Corporation, and one of these 4 will be elected for the General Committee. One member of the General Committee will also be elected by the 2 returned by the Port Commissioners, and lastly, 4 members of the General Committee will be selected by the Local Government; that is to say, the proportion of Government nominees on the General Committee will be 4 out of 15; of the Chamber of Commerce, 2 out of 4; of the Trades Association, 1 out of 4; of the Port Commissioners, 1 out

of 2; and of the Commissioners elected at ward elections, 4 out of 50. That is the constitution of the General Committee. Therefore, so far as the representatives of the elected Commissioners are concerned, there will be 4 as against 8 members. That is how the Bill provides, as I have said, not for the protection of minorities, but for the domination of minorities, and this has always been allowed to be an unsound principle. The principle of the protection of minorities is a sound principle, but in this Bill you provide for a dominant minority. It is complained that there is now a dominant majority, and it is proposed to go to the other extreme and have a dominant minority. Then, it is said that this has been done in order to remove the state of things in existence for a long time, in consequence of which Europeans, as a rule, refrain from taking any interest in the Municipality. With regard to this the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill has himself been pleased to say that the fact of Europeans standing aloof from the concerns of the Municipality is nothing new; they had kept aloof even under the old regime, and the explanation is that at that time the Executive was not hampered by the action of a number of Committees as at present, and therefore they thought their interests were quite safe in the hands of the Chairman. That is the explanation offered by the Hon'ble Member. If he himself is satisfied with that explanation, then of all men, he should be the last to expect European gentlemen to take any interest in the concerns of the Municipality when they know that they will have under this Bill an irresponsible Executive, more independent of, and unfettered by the action of Committees of the Corporation than ever. I have been asking myself whether the European community will take as a compliment all that the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill has so frankly said of its interest in, and criticism of, matters municipal, or be tempted to cry 'save us from our friend.' Although the Hon'ble Member who represents the Chamber of Commerce took it upon himself to say a number of things in disparagement of native Commissioners as to their ideas of sanitation, &c., the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill would warn us against laying much stress upon such criticisms.

"Europeans ought to have an influence on the administration of the town, not, however, by artificial provisions of law, but by really so using their influence in the Corporation as to gain the position which might well be assigned to them. The Bill would give them a predominant position, not on their own merits, but by an artificial provision of the law under which they will have that influence. The Hon'ble Member said:—'The Europeans, who ought to have a predominant influence in the affairs of the town, cannot be induced to take part in the general meetings of the Commissioners, where they consider, rightly or wrongly, the time is wasted in debate, and where they could not hope to command more than an insignificant minority.'

"The question is, why not? Why cannot they hope to command more than an insignificant minority? There have been European members of the Corporation who have, I believe, in their day led the Corporation, and there is no reason why European members should not again lead the Corporation by dint of their own merit, if they would divest themselves of their prejudices with regard to the conduct of meetings. There are some who rush into statements like these, that there is waste of time, that there is unlimited talking. Because other people cannot accept their *ipse dixit*, they are ready to put it down to a desire of talking, and complain of waste of time. When there is a disposition to talk, Europeans are quite as forward to talk as Hindus are. While admitting that Europeans should occupy an important position in the Corporation, I submit it should not be by means of an artificial provision of law, but on their own merits. Then the Hon'ble Member said:—'They prefer to stand aside and make themselves felt through the Chamber of Commerce, the Jute Association, the Health Society, or some other public body which now and then puts forward some very general proposal with an imperfect or no knowledge at all of the difficulties, financial and administrative, involved in the sanitation of a large Asiatic City.' There is the real difficulty in the way of Europeans sympathising with the deliberations of the Corporation. As regards the question of sanitation, I submit that the passage quoted with something like elation by the Hon'ble Member for the Chamber of Commerce, is an answer to his criticisms. He quoted my hon'ble friend to my left as having in

the course of his remarks on the Annual Administration Report of the Corporation come down severely on the sanitary condition of Calcutta, thus showing that though a Native member, was not blind to the interests of the sanitation of the city. But there is such a thing as sanitation run mad, of people having before their eyes the one thing, and not being able to realise what would be best for the town, not in connection with one particular interest, but with all the interests connected with the administration of the Municipality. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill said further: 'It is one of the greatest evils of the existing state of things that, among the various critics of the Corporation, those who are most interested in the questions at issue and best able to make themselves heard, should at the same time be the worst informed as to the evils that exist, and the least responsible as regards the possible remedies for them.' If European gentlemen would profit by the picture thus drawn of them by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, there might be some hope of their understanding the action of the Corporation. Such being the history of their attitude towards municipal concerns, we have further to remember that notwithstanding the artificial provisions of the Bill, the Hon'ble Member for the Chamber of Commerce is doubtful whether the leading members of the mercantile community would come forward to take part in the work of the Municipality, although he said some competent men might be willing. With all this before it, I cannot understand why the Legislature should go out of its way to place a number of baits, so to speak, before a community which, on the admission of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill, has, on the whole, shown no interest in the affairs of the Municipality. I object to the principle of the Bill as unsound. It seeks to provide an irresponsible Executive and to create a dominant minority, both of which objects should in my opinion be deprecated."

The Hon'ble BABU JATRA MOHAN SEN said:—"I desire to record my protest against this Bill. I am not familiar with the questions which form the subject of discussion before the Council, but from what I have read and heard, it appears to me that the passing of this Bill will be a blow to the principles of Local Self-Government for which, as far as I am aware, no case has been made out. It will, moreover, take away from the Commissioners of Calcutta rights which they now possess. For these reasons I am opposed to the principles of this Bill."

The Hon'ble MR. RISLEY, in reply, said:—"I have to thank my hon'ble friend, Mr. Surendranath Banerjee, for the flattering terms in which he has referred to me, however unequal I may feel myself to meet so accomplished a speaker, who has, I freely admit, the advantage of me both as regards his knowledge of the facts, and his unrivalled talent for presenting them in the most attractive form. It is a pleasure to have to deal with so courteous an opponent, and in return I desire to compliment him on his admirable speech. In summing up the debate and replying to the criticisms on the principles of the Bill, I shall endeavour to separate and classify the arguments that have been brought forward so as to deal with them more distinctly than I should if I followed the order of individual speakers. If in any matter I appear to criticise or find fault with the Commissioners, it will, I trust, be borne in mind that my remarks are directed at a system, not at individuals—at a bad law under which the counsels of the older and wiser men are liable to be over-ridden by the younger and more ardent spirits. As to the objection that the Bill is contrary to the principles of Local Self-Government and that, therefore, it is revolutionary, re-actionary, and retrograde, that, I submit, is a large and extremely vague general proposition, and before you can come to any conclusion about it you must know what it means. I will refer to that later on. For the present I take the phrase as it stands and assume that it means that the Bill somehow or other runs counter to Lord Ripon's famous Resolution of the 18th May, 1882. [THE HON'BLE BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE:—"October, 1881."] Hon'ble MR. RISLEY:—"Not at all. That letter only invited opinions. It was a sort of preliminary canter. Lord Ripon's final Resolution was issued on the 18th May, 1882. Against that Resolution, properly understood and applied with the necessary limitations, I have nothing to say. One of its chief limitations, however, is that it does not apply to the Presidency towns. This is expressly stated in paragraph 4 of the Resolution, which restricts its operation to the area 'outside the Presidency towns.' It is, in other words, a Resolution meant for the mufassal, and it recognises the essential differences between

the mufassal and Calcutta. For our present purpose the chief differences are, first, that the population of the mufassal is fairly homogeneous, and except in the planting districts and in the mill areas round Calcutta, Europeans form a very small minority, whether you look to their numbers or to their proprietary interests. Secondly, in the mufassal, sanitation, or the absence of it, concerns only the immediate locality; it raises no international questions, and does not affect the trade of the country. Calcutta, on the other hand, is the outlet for the exports, and the distributing centre for the imports of Bengal, Assam, and Northern India. I cannot mark its importance better than by stating that we are bound by international agreement, in force since 1882, to report every week our statistics of mortality to the Boards of Health at Constantinople and Alexandria. I may add that when I was staying in Constantinople some three years ago, I made the acquaintance of the chief foreign expert on the Board, and was surprised to find what keen interest was taken there in the sanitation of Calcutta, and how jealously the returns were scrutinised. That of itself shows how peculiar the position of Calcutta is, and what excellent reasons Lord Ripon had for excluding it from the scope of the Local Self-Government Resolution.

"But I will go further and meet my friends on their own ground; I will assume, for the sake of argument, that the principles of Local Self-Government—to stick to that indefinite phrase—are applicable to Calcutta. Does it follow even then that the Bill infringes the principle? I maintain that it does not; on the contrary the Bill affirms and extends it. Some politician once said—I forget who it was—when you see five men of whom three are sitting upon two, you can hardly say that all five are enjoying the blessings of Local Self-Government. That fairly describes the state of things that has prevailed in Calcutta for the last twenty years—three Hindus sitting on one European and one Muhammadan. That is a state of things which the Bill proposes to change, and in doing so I contend that it proceeds on the true principle of Local Self-Government—the representation of interests—and applies it, moreover in a manner which Lord Ripon himself seems to have distinctly contemplated even in the case of the mufassal, where the problem, as I have already said, is far simpler than in Calcutta. In paragraph 14 of the Resolution of 1882 we read: 'Experience is wanting to determine the most suitable general system of election for each province, and it is desirable that a variety of plans should be tried in order to a future comparison of results. The simple vote, the cumulative vote, election by wards, election by the whole town and tract, suffrage of more or less extended qualification, election by castes or occupations—these and other methods might all be tried. New methods, unthought of in Europe, may be found suitable to India, and after a time it will probably be possible to say what forms suit best the local peculiarities and idiosyncracies of the different populations.' If that is not wide enough to cover the General Committee as proposed in the Bill, I do not know what is.

"The speeches of Hon'ble Members on the other side assumed throughout that the present system is a popular system. I should have thought the figures in Table C would have been sufficient to dispose of that fallacy. They show that the entire number of electors is only 13,000 or 2 per cent. of the population of Calcutta. The rest have no voice in the government of the town. Whatever you may call this, it is certainly not a popular government in any sense of the word. It is an oligarchy in which one section predominates—an ill-balanced oligarchy, in which the weight is all on one side. Even if we look to the Hindus alone, it appears to me—and many Hindu gentlemen have made the same complaint—that the working of the elective system is unsatisfactory. It gives undue prominence to a section of the community,—Young Bengal, New India—whatever you choose to call it, the *soi-disant* democratic section of a society which, from top to bottom, is essentially undemocratic in its character and ways of thought. It leaves patriotic Hindus have often told me, a faulty and superficial method. It leaves the elder generation and those who follow in their steps out in the cold, and Government has to bring them in by way of nomination. It selects those who rise to the surface—the men who talk and canvass and agitate—but it does not reach the silent depths of the stream. It does not give us, as a rule, either here or in the mufassal, the genuine representative Hindus, the men we

really want. In point of fact, in matters of this kind, you have to choose between two principles, neither of which can be stretched to justify the present state of things. If you follow the principle of numerical majority, you ought to enlarge the franchise; if you wish to give weight to intelligence, business capacity, and pecuniary interest in the prosperity of the town, some mode of proportional representation such as is proposed in the Bill must be resorted to.

"A great deal has been made of the argument that whatever has gone wrong in the town is the fault of the Executive, that is to say, of the Chairman. This is an argument which my hon'ble friends are not entitled to use. In the first place the law vests all powers in the Commissioners; it gives them complete control, and imposes on them full responsibility. So far from attempting to shift responsibility on to the Chairman by making any reasonable distribution of duties, they have tied his hands in every way and kept hanging over him the possibility of constant interference. They might have done by resolution what the Bill is doing now; but they did not do it. They kept all power in their own hands, and they must now abide by the results. You cannot indulge in the luxury of interference in season and out of season, and retain the right of disclaiming responsibility. If people keep on poking their fingers into the works of a clock, they must expect to be taken to task if the clock goes wrong. Moreover, as regards the really grave question of the terrible state of things discovered by the Medical Board—the Commissioners expressly assumed entire responsibility. On the 1st of December, 1896, the Government asked the Medical Board to make a full and searching inquiry into the causes of the lamentable failure on the part of those responsible for the town conservancy. On the 9th of December the Medical Board addressed a very polite letter to the Commissioners, in which they asked certain questions, none of which imputed any neglect to the Commissioners. The questions were:—(1) Are the facts correctly stated? (2) Were they reported to the Commissioners by the Health Officer, and with what results? (3) Is the law, as it stands, sufficient? (4) Is the law enforced, and if not, why not? (5) What are the duties of the Health Officer, and have they been properly carried out? To this the Commissioners replied that they respectfully declined to consent to the Medical Board being constituted judges between them and their officers. Can there be a more complete assumption of responsibility than that? In the face of that Resolution, is it possible for the Commissioners now at this distance either to dispute the facts or to deny or whittle away their responsibility for them? They were offered a full and fair inquiry by a body which, I believe, was absolutely impartial and free from prejudice and which, moreover, was on particularly friendly relations with the Commissioners, and had recently met the General Committee and discussed with them in the most amicable fashion the regulations to be framed under section 334 of the Act for the purpose of averting an outbreak of plague. My friend asks for a Commission now. He might have had a Commission then, but he would not. I am aware, of course, that there was a great division and much searching of heart among the Hindu Commissioners. One party, headed by my friend, the Hon'ble Babu Norendra Nath Sen, wished to accept the offer of the Government and the Medical Board. But they were overborne by the younger men, who, actuated by what my friend Mr. James Bryce calls 'the sensitive self-esteem of an assembly,' insisted on standing on their rights or what they thought were their rights. No doubt they have since realised the mistake that they made. They were led away by the younger men. And I have no doubt that this was what my friend Babu Kally Nath Mitter had in his mind when he suggested to me the other day at the Building Commission two reforms more radical than I should have ventured to propose myself. One of them was an age qualification for Commissioners—that no one should be elected under the age of thirty-five; and the other a property qualification for Commissioners—the payment of Rs. 200 in rates.

"Next we have what I may call the historical argument which dwells upon the state of the town some 30 or 40 years ago, before its administration was made over to the Justices, and it is suggested that the Commissioners cannot be blamed for not having entirely put in order a heritage of neglect. Well, I am not greatly concerned to defend the Government of so many years ago; but I may observe that the standard of sanitation even

in England was very different half a century ago. To say that the Government of that day was not in advance of the ideas of their day, does not justify the Commissioners in lagging behind the ideas of our day. Moreover, the position has now entirely changed. Fifty years ago Calcutta was practically isolated from the rest of the world by a long sea voyage. The danger of the town spreading infection to Europe was practically *nil*, and could be disregarded. Nor was it connected with the rest of India as it is now, a fact which doubtless explains its immunity from plague. In those days the limit of infection was the distance a man could walk with the seeds of disease in him; now it is the distance he can travel by rail at 40 miles an hour—a very different thing. The copious references which have been made to the past accomplishments of the Commissioners are really irrelevant. No one denies that much has been done and a great deal of money spent. I have every wish to do ample justice, and I admit that it is in their dealings with large issues that we see the Commissioners at their best. They passed the Harrison Road scheme, it is true, only by a narrow majority, and under extreme pressure, but they did pass it, notwithstanding their strong feelings on the subject of the right of property in ancestral houses. They agreed to the drainage scheme much against their desire for economy as such and their fear of a rise in the rates of taxation, and I am not at all disposed to go behind what was stated in the Government Resolution as to the time they took over it. But that refers only to the combined drainage scheme. It refers to the scheme embracing both the suburbs and the town. If I am not mistaken, the defects of the drainage system of Calcutta itself had been before the Commissioners for a very much longer period. The Health Officer claimed to have brought it forward as long ago as 1886, when he first came to Calcutta, and I am not aware that his statement has ever been challenged. In both cases public opinion, which can make itself felt in large issues, drove them at last to do something, the necessity for which many of them realised very imperfectly. But this is all beside the point. The large issues no one proposes to take away from them. The Bill will not withdraw from the general body of Commissioners the decision on these large issues, but it will give them an agency by which the large schemes will be prepared and digested. It will give them the initiative and driving power which they now want.

"In speaking of the action of the Commissioners and the attitude they assumed with regard to large schemes, I desire to give them full credit for the improvements they have effected in the town. But having said this, I fear it must be added that many large schemes have hung fire, and that the progress which has been made has not been as quick as it might have been. Look at the tramways for instance; for years past the whole thing has been a hideous scandal both as regards the state of the lines, the mismanagement and the display of cruelty to animals, and if there had been in the Corporation more initiative power, further progress would have been made in dealing with the tramways than there has been. Then take the state of the Warrant Department. That question dates really from 1886 and it descends, I may say, to the present time. Ten years later, in 1896, Mr. Williams discovered that, owing to the mismanagement of the department, two lakhs a year were written off as irrecoverable. There had been an accumulation of six lakhs of irrecoverable arrears in the three years preceding, and the Vice-Chairman, who showed the greatest possible energy in the matter, went into the subject, and found that there was a most inadequate establishment. They had 19 bailiffs on salaries varying from Rs. 20 to Rs. 8 at the bottom of the list, and besides this establishment there were also unpaid bailiffs who got no salary at all, but only a small commission for what they were supposed to collect. All sorts of peculation prevailed, as might be expected. A Committee was appointed in August, 1896, to investigate the matter, and I believe orders were passed on this report only the other day. But in looking through the correspondence, I found that, as long ago as 1886, Sir Henry Harrison urged upon the Commissioners practical reforms which would have tended to bring in the municipal revenues at a very much earlier period than under the existing system, and he resented very much what he considered to be interference with the independent action of the Executive. Then there was the large scheme of the establishment of a *dhobikhana* which had been under consideration ever since Sir Henry Harrison's time. There was also the disgraceful case of the trenching-ground at Goragatcha,

which continued in Alipore from 1890—1895, a system of trenching of night-soil, which was the subject of general complaint, and which caused the Commissioners and their Chairman to be prosecuted and fined Rs. 100 in a criminal proceedings. It was admitted something ought to be done, but there was no power in the Corporation to find out what should be done or to do it. Eventually, the matter was settled by making a temporary connection with the sewer in Circular Road, but there was no reason why that temporary connection should not have been made years before. Here again the system was to blame, because there was no business-like body to bring about the solution of practical difficulties as they cropped up.

“So far as to the large issues. But how often does it happen that the Corporation have large issues to deal with? The great bulk of their work consists of minor issues—minor matters of conservancy which do not attract attention—and it is in respect of these minor matters that the interference of the Commissioners with the Executive is most striking. We have had one case referred to—the withdrawal of the grant for removing road-scrapings by hired carts. My hon’ble friend, Babu Surendranath Banerjee, says that hired carts do not work well, and therefore the Commissioners withdrew the grant. That is as much as to say that because the police are sometimes corrupt, therefore there should be no police. Then for a long time past there had been a series of proposals, which anybody can look at in the proceedings of the Commissioners’ meetings, made by Dr. Simpson for the improvement of the scavenging establishment of the town, and intended to put it on a proper footing, and the way in which these proposals were dealt with was to refer them to a Committee which was appointed to consider the question of the amalgamation of the Conservancy with the Road Department under the Engineer. This Committee has been sitting since 1894, and I believe it is sitting still. This has been a great feature of the Commissioners’ administration, the perpetual reference of all kinds of minor questions to Committees and Sub-Committees; the practice of appointing Committees to consider matters which might well be disposed of by the Chairman, and which, under this Bill, will be so disposed of without waste of time. To any one who will look through the proceedings of the Commissioners there is abundant evidence that Committees and Sub-Committees are too often set going at the instance of people who have an interest in stopping the progress of work. Inconvenient orders are thus set aside, for in municipal matters it is a familiar experience that when once questions are referred to a Committee, the chances are that in many instances they remain there for an indefinite period of time. The extent to which this power of appointing Committees has been misused and the way in which they have blocked work will appear from a list from which I will read extracts. The list is a very long one. [Extracts from the list were read.]

The Hon’ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE rose to order. He said:—“This is a new matter which is introduced by the Hon’ble Member in charge of the Bill. It is not in the nature of a reply.”

The Hon’ble THE PRESIDENT said:—“It is an effective reply as to interference by Committees and preventing work being promptly and rapidly done.”

The Hon’ble MR. RISLEY, continuing, referred to some further instances of interference by means of Committees. He said:—

“In this matter of their interference with the Executive on minor issues, which is one of the chief reasons for strengthening the hands of the Chairman, if any one will look at any volume of the proceedings of the Commissioners and turn to the proceedings of the Buildings Committee, he will find there an indefinite number of cases in which orders passed by the Executive to do this, that, or the other, are brought up and considered by the Committee. It has been suggested that in respect of the Building Regulations there has really been no great interference with the Executive. But I will ask permission to read what was said by certain Commissioners at an ordinary meeting held in July, 1895, on that subject, as it completely disposes of the point and renders it unnecessary to cite a number of cases and go into details. At that meeting Mr. N. N. Ghose

moved 'that the Chairman be requested to prepare a Note or Memorandum on the difficulties that have arisen in the interpretation and the working of the Building Regulations as given in Act II (B.C.) of 1888, and of the bye-laws passed by the Commissioners and sanctioned by the Local Government, and on the generally unsatisfactory character of those Regulations, and that the Memorandum, when prepared, be sent up to the Local Government after it has been adopted by the Commissioners in meeting.' In his speech he said:—'From a common-sense view the laws and bye-laws seemed enough, but sometimes the ingenuity of lawyers, and sometimes the Commissioners themselves who had cases to support, had made the rules unworkable. In many cases where they were absolutely plain and unambiguous, they had been twisted so as to make them inoperative and futile. Third storeys, for instance, ought not to be allowed in streets of less width than 40 feet.

* * * But recently the rule had been violated in a very large number of cases. To be strictly correct he should say that the rule had not been so much violated as it had been interpreted in a loose way. If there had been special cases only, the violations would not have been so much complained of, provided they were not taken as precedents. But when third storeys were allowed on the ground that they were cook-rooms and *thukoorbarees*, or when they were sanctioned because the structure in the third storey was 20 feet from the middle of the road, then such cases formed precedents against the intention of the law. He need not multiply instances.' In the same debate Babu Norendra Nath Sen agreed with the Mover on all points, that is to say, he agreed that the regulations had been broken. Babu Surendranath Banerjee said:—'He had not been convinced that a modification of the law was necessary; he did not think they had worked the bye-laws in a manner to justify that belief. If they worked the bye-laws in the way they might be worked, he thought the bye-laws and the building sections of the Act would amply suffice for all purposes. He quite agreed with Mr. N. N. Ghose that the elaborate regulations of the London Building Act were not required here; Calcutta was not London. At present it would be sufficient if the existing rules were worked thoroughly, honestly and in a consistent spirit, without making the frequent exceptions which had been made. He thought the rules as they stood were amply sufficient for the purpose.' Then Babu Kally Nath Mitter, a very high authority on the subject, said: 'His friend, Mr. Ghose, considered that the bye-laws had not actually been violated, but that they had been loosely interpreted: on the contrary, the speaker maintained that the bye-laws had been violated in the most flagrant manner possible. All that was wanted was that they should be properly worked. Babu Priya Nath Mullick had referred to what he considered an ambiguity in the wording of the bye-laws under Chapter (f) of the bye-laws, but the speaker did not think it could have been made plainer, namely, that no three-storeyed house could be built in a road of less than 40 feet width. Take, for instance, the case of a building at 4, Sunker Ghose's Lane, in the Proceedings of the Buildings Committee on the 21st May, 1895, which was thus reported:—

'The Chairman submitted for consideration the question of the construction of the proposed building at No. 4, Sunker Ghose's Lane. The only objection in this case was to the third storey, the street being less than 40 feet wide. It was not a mere cook-room or a *thukoorbaree*, but a regular third storey.

'Babu Jadu Nath Sen pointed out that the third-storeyed portion of this house was 60 feet removed from the road, and at the last meeting a third storey only 30 feet removed was sanctioned.

'The Chairman was strongly against sanctioning a third storey in a road which was only 14 feet 9 inches wide. If the Commissioners wanted to sanction a third storey in such a narrow road, they should repeal the bye-law on the subject.'

"Was there any ambiguity in that? Was that a case of loose interpretation of the 40 feet rule? It was a deliberate violation of the bye-laws in this case by allowing the construction of a third storey in a road only 14 feet 9 inches wide. The speaker, therefore, maintained that it was not a case of difficulty of interpretation, but of misplaced generosity by the Members of the Committee, and consequently there was no need of a Committee for the revision of the bye-laws. He gave another instance to illustrate his meaning. In the same Proceedings there was a motion against an order

for the demolition of a cook-room on the third storey of a house at 76—1, Sickdarbagan Street. In that case:—

‘The Chairman explained that in this case the Committee sanctioned the building of a two-storeyed house, waiving the objection that two feet space had not been left in front of a passage to the east. The house was not built according to the sanctioned plan, the four feet space on the back having been built upon, and a third-storey erected without sanction. He made an order on the 19th September to remove the third storey, but notice under section 241 was not issued until the 7th of December, Babu Nalin Behari Sircar having represented that the owner was negotiating for a piece of land for a cook-room. Nothing had, however, been done. The Department had no knowledge of the Ward Commissioners’ letters.

‘Babu Norendra Nath Sen remarked that there was not the least doubt that in this case the Building Regulations had been violated, and a cook-room built on the third storey without sanction. It was only in special cases in Burra Bazar that cook-rooms were allowed on the third storey.

‘Babu Ramtaran Banerjee observed that there had been repeated violation of the rules as regards the building of third-storeys in narrow streets, leaving the requisite spaces and the like. In this case the service of notice was delayed in deference to the representation made by Babu Nalin Behari Sircar, and he thought any censure on the Road Department was uncalled for.

‘Mr. J. Ghosal remarked, apart from the merits of this case, that every dwelling-house must have a cook-room, and in houses like this, built upon very small plots of land, the best place for a cook-room was on the roof.

‘The question that the cook-room be allowed to stand was carried by 9 votes to 2.’

“There was in this case no ambiguity in the application of the rule; none whatever. Therefore, what was wanted was instructions from the Commissioners to their Committee to see that the bye-laws were more strictly adhered to. He thought that would be quite sufficient. There might, of course, be one or two bye-laws which needed some amendment to make them plain, but he thought that a general resolution of this kind would cause serious mischief. He could well understand why exception was taken to the Chairman’s preparing a note on the subject, because he would be bound to point out prominently all these cases of violations of the bye-laws, which perhaps was not desirable.’

“And in winding up the debate, the Chairman said ‘it was a matter of complaint that though a Committee had been appointed two years ago, nothing had been done; but it was no use for a Committee to sit round a table unless the points which they were to consider were properly put before them.’

“I will now turn to some of the specific statements made by the Hon’ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee in his extremely lucid and able speech upon this Bill. He spoke, among other things, on the question of bustee procedure, and he said that during the last ten years the Commissioners had spent no less than 10 lakhs on the improvement of bustees. Now the bustee question goes back to the year 1885, when the Government of India addressed the Government of Bengal on this subject. They said that ‘there can be no doubt that though the Commissioners have, since the introduction of elective institutions in 1876, done much to improve the City, there have been at the same time very serious shortcomings on which the Government has been frequently compelled to comment.’ Years of valuable time were wasted in discussion before the extension of the filtered water-supply was put in hand. It was not till 1880 that a beginning was made in bustee reclamation, and the expenditure up to date has fallen far short of the minimum sum of one-half lakhs per annum, which the Government of India in its orders on the report for 1882-83 declared to be necessary. It was not until the beginning of 1883-84 that an establishment for the surface cleaning of bustees began to be organised.

"The figures for bustee improvement from 1883 to 1896 were given in paragraph 249 of the last Administration Report of the Commissioners. They are the following:—

				Rs.
1883-84	...	...	...	28,238
1884-85	...	...	...	93,092
1885-86	...	...	...	84,628
1886-87	...	...	...	1,31,380
1887-88	...	...	...	2,05,575
1888-89	...	...	...	44,754
1889-90	...	...	...	64,018
1890-91	...	...	...	36,292
1891-92	...	...	...	1,27,762
1892-93	...	...	...	53,222
1893-94	...	...	...	29,188
1894-95	...	...	...	21,939
1895-96	...	...	...	5,601
1896-97	...	...	...	12,244
Total	...	...	...	9,35,933

"So that in that number of years the total expenditure by the Commissioners on bustee improvement was Rs. 9,36,000 or Rs. 66,000 a year—less than half the amount laid down as a minimum by the Government of India in 1883-84. On this subject one of the Commissioners themselves, in discussing the Administration Report, said:—'In page 112 a very interesting statement was given showing the amount expended during last ten years upon bustee improvement, but he regretted to say that the amount expended last year was the lowest on record, namely, Rs. 21,939. Bustee improvement was one of the greatest necessities of the town, but it was now practically at a standstill. There were many bustees in the northern division of the town which were in the same state now that they were ten years ago, and if active measures were not taken to improve them, their condition would become worse.'

"Then my hon'ble friend read an extract from a well-known book describing the terrible state of things existing in some of the London rookeries. But what does that prove? Every body knows that London taken as a whole is one of the healthiest cities in the world. The death-rate is very low, and London, and England generally, has been continuously free from any of those epidemic diseases from which other European towns have suffered. If there was the smallest danger of a foreign port putting any sort of embargo on vessels hailing from London, it is quite certain that popular indignation would wipe out the County Council in a week, and would insist on the Government at once appointing a dictator to carry out the necessary reforms.

"My hon'ble friend challenged the statement that the Corporation is unequal to great emergencies, and he referred to the correspondence which took place with the Medical Board on the subject of the cleansing of the town. It was stated in the course of this debate that the Commissioners had been prompt in their dealings with the Plague. I find the same statement made in a Note by a well-known Commissioner which has been sent to me—a Note which I recognise as the brief from which my hon'ble friend spoke:—'The Commissioners at once employed another highly-paid officer as Special Superintendent of Conservancy.' As this appointment is thus pointedly referred to as a test case, I may be allowed to refer to the proceedings in connection with the appointment of the Superintendent. On the 25th September, 1896, the Chairman laid before the General Committee a telegram which he had received, and the Health Officer at once asked that he might have a man of the highest capacity for the purpose of superintending the work done in the town by the Conservancy establishment. It was stated that this was not a new proposal, and that he had asked before for the appointment of such an officer, but now there was an emergency, and it was his duty to press his demand for it at once. That was the first opportunity the Commissioners had to show their readiness to meet an emergency; but although in that very debate Babu Kali Nauth Mitter said that his own conviction was that if the money was given it would be well spent in a case of this kind, and Babu Norendra Nath Sen observed that in point of Sanitation Calcutta was no better off than it had been ten years back, the

Commissioners gave the Health Officer the miserable sum of Rs. 3,000 which was strongly opposed by Mr. N. N. Ghose, and they absolutely refused to give a supervising officer on which the greatest possible stress was laid by the Health Officer. On the 28th of September another meeting was held at which the Acting Chairman said:—‘He had an urgent matter of a very important nature to submit for the consideration of the General Committee. This morning he visited the Burra Bazar ward and another ward in company with the Health Officer, and they found the place so filthy and dirty that the Health Officer desired him to ask the Commissioners to see the place to-morrow morning. The Health Officer asked for an establishment for six months at a total expenditure of Rs. 36,000.’

“Even then all they did was to resolve ‘that the Health Officer be authorised to spend on his own responsibility the sum of Rs. 3,000 placed at his disposal on such preventive measures as he thinks necessary.’ They did not give him more money, but they authorised him to spend what had been given at his own discretion. Next I come to the 2nd October, 1896. On this occasion Babu Nalin Behari Sircar, who took the greatest possible trouble in connection with this matter, said:—‘He also had inspected the Burra Bazar ward with the Chairman, and he was shocked to see the utter neglect of the existing staff of the Conservancy Department. There was not a single gully-pit which was not choked and from which the water was not oozing upon the street. In privies, *gumlas* full of nightsoil were visible from the streets, and the neighbours stated they had been in that state for a length of time. He also saw a narrow passage full of nightsoil, which was said to be used as a sort of drop-privy.’

“One gentleman, who was present at that meeting, was of opinion that ‘the Note of the Health Officer now before the meeting should not be considered until a satisfactory explanation was submitted as to the disgraceful state of things which had been described.’ But even then the Health Officer did not get his Superintendent, and it was resolved that there was no necessity for additional Medical Inspectors. Next we come to the 5th of October (three days afterwards); and that meeting was opened by Babu Surendranath Banerjee regretting on behalf of the meeting that ‘the Health Officer had not given effect to their Resolution disallowing the employment of the additional Medical Inspectors which he asked for.’ Next Mr. N. N. Ghose remarked ‘that whatever might be wanted in Bombay, a case for the appointment of Medical Inspectors could not arise here until cases of bubonic plague occurred in Calcutta.’ We know from the sad experience of Bombay that the one thing necessary is to catch your first case of plague, and the only way to do that is to have a special establishment to catch it. At the next meeting of the General Committee on the 9th October, Sir John Lambert attended, and it was only under strong pressure put on the General Committee by him that they accepted a proposal to appoint a Chief Superintendent of Conservancy temporarily for three months. I submit that the action of that Committee between the 25th September and the 9th October cannot fairly be described as meeting a great emergency promptly, and that it fully justifies the statement which has been made that the present constitution of the Municipality is not calculated to deal promptly with great emergencies.

“I now draw attention to the correspondence with the Medical Board. I understood my hon’ble friend to say that a certain establishment was sanctioned by the Commissioners on the 19th January, 1897, and that on the 20th January, 1897, the Medical Board wrote to the Government protesting that that establishment had not been appointed.”

The Hon’ble BABU SURENDRANATH BANERJEE, intervening, said:—“The Commissioners took action independently of any pressure brought to bear upon them either by the Medical Board or by the Government. The meeting of the Commissioners took place on the 19th January, and the letter of the Medical Board is dated the 20th of January. I suggested that the Medical Board took action after seeing what the Commissioners were doing.”

The Hon’ble MR. RISLEY, continued. “I now understand what my hon’ble friend said, and can correct him as to his facts. Sometime in the beginning of October or in the end of September, 1896, the Commissioners sanctioned an establishment for cleaning up the Burra Bazar. That establishment was calculated to deal with one ward and one ward only. Later on, after the

Sanitary Officers had discovered vast accumulations of filth in eight wards, it came to the notice of the Medical Board that the Commissioners did not propose to sanction any more establishment, but intended to clean up the eight wards one after the other by means of the staff sanctioned for one ward. The Medical Board considered this arrangement to be utterly inadequate, and said so in their letter of 20th January with some emphasis. On the 22nd of January, not on the 19th, as my hon'ble friend says—*after* and not *before* the letter of the Medical Board, a grant of Rs. 30,000 was made for the purpose of cleansing the towns, its administration being, however, entrusted to the inevitable Sub-Committee which, I am informed by Mr. Bright, never sat and never reported.

"Then my hon'ble friend drew a comparison between the action of the Calcutta Corporation and Bombay to the detriment of the latter, and his argument was that this was the model constitution proposed to be given to Calcutta. I do not at all admit that the Bombay administration is faulty; they got to work very promptly. They made mistakes, as all of us are likely to do, in dealing with a terrible calamity, and nobody would blame the Bombay Corporation because they spent too much money on throwing corrosive sublimate into the drains; but any one who has read Mr. Snow's narrative and the account of the work done by my friend General Gatacre's Committee, must I think admit that the latter Committee was, to say the least of it, fortunate in being appointed just as the disease was declining. They got the credit for what would in any case have happened from natural causes. Mr. Snow carried on the work up to that period under the provisions of the ordinary law, and so far from its being admitted that the Bombay Corporation failed, the popular verdict on that side of India now is in favour of taking plague management out of the hands of the Special Committee and making it over to the Municipal Commissioner, who corresponds to the Chairman in the Bill.

"My hon'ble friend commented on the frequent change of Chairmen. That, I admit, is very much to be regretted, but like many other things, it has largely to do with the system on which work has to be done. If a man has to do every piece of work twice over, it is no great wonder if he breaks down. When ordinarily the Executive work of the City is heavy enough to task the energies of any one man if he has merely to do it, and be done with it; if he has to do it over and over again and fight constant battles with Committees, it is enough to break down any man. Nor is there any reason to suppose that a non-official Chairman would stand such a strain any better than an official Chairman.

"A reference was made to Sir Henry Harrison's Note, when the present Act came into force, distributing very elaborately, carefully and wisely the several functions which the Chairman was entitled to delegate among the various Officers of the Corporation to whom those powers were delegated. It is true that as between the Chairman and his subordinates the powers have been distributed; but not as between the Chairman and the Commissioners. The Commissioners have not even by a revocable resolution parted with any fraction of their powers of discretionary interference. One would have thought that the Commissioners would have said to their Chairman:—'We make over to you such and such powers.' That, however, was what they did not do, and that is why all the trouble has arisen. They left the whole thing indefinite. They reserved in regard to each of the sections of the Act the right of revision, of turning everything upside down; and that was what the President meant when he said that everything was fluid and indefinite; defined enough as far as the subordinates were concerned, but absolutely undefined as regards the Chairman. It is literally true that under the present Act no one can say in what part of the Corporation the Executive reside or indeed whether there is any Executive at all. The Chairman may have power to sanction verandahs to-day; it may be withdrawn to-morrow and given back the day after. In each and every section the power lies with the Commissioners. They may withdraw it generally; they may reserve particular cases; they may upset the Chairman in one case and uphold him in a similar case. The whole thing is a series of conundrums, to which the answers vary from day to day.

"Then it was pressed both by the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee and the Hon'ble Member of the University that under this Bill as proposed, the General Committee and the Chairman will practically be responsible to nobody. As to that I should like to ask—Is it not better in Executive matters that the Chairman and the General Committee should be responsible to nobody, than that in such matters nobody should be responsible to anybody? And what is meant by saying that the Chairman and the General Committee would be practically responsible to nobody? If it means that their orders will be final in cases when the Bill empowers them to do certain things, then I agree. Beyond that, making their orders final in no way removes responsibility. Clearly it is the other way, that it tends rather to enhance the sense of responsibility than to reduce it. Responsibility is not the same thing as indefinite liability to appeal. A man whose authority is final is far more likely to do the right thing than if he is subject to a Committee and the Committee again is subject to further authority. Can there be any method more effectual for whittling away the sense of responsibility? Either he will disregard the Committee, or he will put before the Committee that which it is likely to accept, which need not be the best thing or even the second best.

"I am not greatly concerned to defend Europeans from the charge that they will not attend to the business of the Corporation in the future, because they have not attended to it in the past; because their position under this Bill will be very different from that which they have occupied under the present Act. They could be in the past only an insignificant minority. If they had exerted themselves as much as possible and got elected in all the wards in which it was conceivable they might be elected, they would not have had any real power in the Municipality. The Hon'ble Member for the Calcutta Trades' Association has stated how Members of that Association, who formerly withdrew from serving in the Corporation, came forward at once directly they heard that this Bill had been brought in. I believe the same thing has been experienced amongst the Members of the Chamber of Commerce. Some years ago leading Members of that body did attend meetings of the Corporation and did their work, but finding their voice ineffectual, they cried off. There is another point. There is an argument which has been used against Europeans, and I wish all the more to meet it, because I find it quoted as having been said by Sir Stuart Hogg. He said:—'Europeans in this country are, as a rule, merely birds of passage, and will often take a very partial view of measures put before them.' I am surprised that a man of Sir Stuart Hogg's authority should have lent his support to such a fallacious statement. In the midst of the floating population here, the great mercantile firms are the most stable and the most permanent element. It is true that individual members of such firms go home for a change from time to time and from time to time retire, but the firms go on. The whole object of the mercantile community, and especially of the Englishmen here, is to found firms which will last. Within the limits of the trading community you have to distinguish between two kinds of traders. You have a class of traders, mostly foreigners, who do merely an export business, and who, if anything happened to Calcutta, would shift their business elsewhere and be no worse off. But among the English firms you have what you may call fixed capitalists, who have built up a trade and invested their money in the development of the resources of the country. They have sunk millions in Calcutta and with Calcutta they must stand or fall. To speak of such firms as birds of passage, because the individual partners do not live for ever, is simply to misuse words.

"The question of making over certain appointments to the General Committee and their withdrawal from the general body of the Corporation was referred to on a former occasion, and I think it is unnecessary for me to add very much by way of reply to the remarks which I quoted from Sir Henry Harrison in my opening speech. But I shall first refer to an instance within my own personal knowledge. A native friend of mine was a candidate for a certain office, and though he was a proud man and hated it, he found it necessary to canvass. Well he went his rounds; he had Dante's experience and found it very unpleasant, but a day or so before the election he came to me with a list of positive promises giving him an absolute

majority. Next day he was easily defeated. No doubt he had got the promises. The people who gave them had not the strength of mind to refuse, so they just promised all round, with no doubt a mental reservation. It is a nice case of casuistry, and is a very good illustration of how the present system works. But is it fair to put people in such a position? Is it not better to withdraw the power? It seems too obvious to need argument, that of all methods of filling appointments, which require very careful selection, that of election by a mixed body of 75 persons was by far the most unsuitable.

"In connection with this matter there was a reference by the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee to America. I know Mr. Shaw's book which my friend quoted. It is an excellent book in its way, but it refers to American Municipalities only incidentally and by way of comparison with English Municipalities. If my hon'ble friend wishes to know the best that has been written on Municipal Government in America, he should read Mr. Bryce's book, and in particular the chapter called 'an American view of Municipal Government' by Mr. Seth Low, the Mayor of Brooklyn City. He will be left, I believe, with little doubt that Local Self-Government was to a great extent a failure in many American Cities. But why did it fail? It failed because it was too popular, because it was too democratic. Of late years they have been retracing their steps. In America, at any rate, there is no prejudice against the elective principle, no bias in favour of autocratic or bureaucratic institutions. But what was one of the chief recommendations of the famous Commission, which sat twenty years ago to consider Municipal Government and the state of New York? They proposed 'an extension of the general control and appointing power of the Mayor, the Mayor himself being subject to removal for cause by the Governor of the State.' In Boston the Mayor and Aldermen (a body of 12) appoint the heads of all the chief departments. In St. Louis the Mayor appoints with the approval of the Council. In Brooklyn the Mayor appoints absolutely without confirmation all the Executive heads of departments; the theory being that where Executive work is to be done, it should be committed to the charge of one man. So thoroughly has this view been accepted by the most democratic community in the world, that you can read in Ford's American Citizen's Manual 'there can be no question that one of the most prolific sources of official corruption and incompetence lies in the multiplication of elective offices.' If America can go as far as that, surely the Bill cannot err greatly in going half way. We propose merely to transfer a certain power from a less qualified body to a more qualified one—to adapt means to the ends they are intended to serve.

"Then my hon'ble friend says the Government has taken to itself too much power. The Government is in this position, that whatever it does or does not do, it is held responsible. All Municipal Government is a delegation from the ruling power of certain of its functions for certain purposes, and the limits of that delegation are a pure matter of convenience and experience. In this Country the Government is so situated that if anything goes wrong, it is immediately held responsible, and it is, therefore, bound to reserve to itself a sufficient power of control. If the town falls into an insanitary state, the Government will be told 'Why did you let the Municipality do it?' And unless an effective Act is passed, we have no reply to that question. I see that the Hon'ble Member for the University referred to race sentiment, and deprecated the introduction of race sentiment into this question. I for one certainly did *not* introduce the question of race sentiment either directly or by suggestion, and the reference to it comes from the Hon'ble Member himself; but as it has been mentioned, I say the question is one which every now and then has to be faced; and you can no more eliminate a certain modicum of race sentiment from matters municipal than you can eliminate the factor of personal character from matters of every-day life.

"Then there was some discussion about the relations between various municipal authorities in Bombay. This can be best answered by a quotation from the Hon'ble Mr. West's speech in the debate on that Act. There was considerable discussion in the Council as to the relations of the Municipal Commissioners and the Corporation; some said they were co-ordinate authorities; others said they were not. In the Bombay Act, as in this Bill, the authorities

are not co-ordinate. The Commissioner, as Mr. West explained, 'is given independent power in his own circle. He cannot in any way thwart the general policy or desires of the Corporation.' That is a reasonable position for the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality to occupy. You give him certain things to do, and powers to do them. As to the rest, he depends for all ordinary schemes on the General Committee and for all larger schemes on the Corporation; and it should be remembered that all schemes of any sort depend in the last resort on the power of the purse which rests in the Corporation.

"Some Hon'ble Member referred to the question of Fees. I am aware that this is a vexed question on which a good deal has been said, but the Bombay experience shows that the system of paying fees to Members of the General Committee has worked very smoothly, and it has the support of commercial practice, for it is the custom in almost all public Companies to pay fees to the Directors for their attendance at Board meetings, and the experience of all business men is that the system is a satisfactory system and works well.

"Finally, there is one point of departure from the Bombay system which I wish to explain, for it is a matter of some importance. I understood the Hon'ble Member for the University to take exception to the composition of the General Committee, and he pointed out that it differs from the Bombay system. In Bombay the Corporation, which is itself only half elected, appoints eight Members of the Standing Committee, whereas we propose that it should appoint only four. The reason for the difference is this, that Bombay differs from Calcutta in some very important particulars which tell in favour of the proposal in the Bill. In Bombay it is as a matter of common knowledge that natives of all classes are very largely concerned in commercial undertakings, and they have an infinitely larger interest in the prosperity and trade of the town than Bengalis, who as a rule hold aloof from business and do not regard the trade of Calcutta as an intimate concern of theirs. Then again, Bombay differs further in this, that the European element is very much smaller, and the European commercial element has not such a permanent interest in the City as it has here, there is not the same amount of European invested capital, and you have there the case, which is very uncommon here, of a number of native firms trading under European names. Thirdly, the Muhammadans of Bombay are a far richer and stronger body than they are here in Calcutta, and you have there also the Parsees. The result is that you may almost say that the Bombay community is homogeneous. It is of course not literally homogeneous, but the different classes are so evenly balanced that you may practically treat that community as one that is homogeneous. You do not need, therefore, to go out of your way to prevent any one section of the community being swamped by others, and it was conspicuous at a meeting of the Bombay Standing Committee which I attended last July that the proportion between the various communities was very evenly balanced. It was distinctly a cosmopolitan assembly, which is the last thing which can be said of the General Committee here.

"This is all I have to say by way of reply. I have endeavoured to answer the criticisms of my hon'ble friends, so far as I have been able to follow them, and I have again to thank them for the courtesy which they have shown me in discussing this measure."

The Hon'ble THE PRESIDENT said :—"I shall not detain the Council at any length, as I am physically unfit to do so, but it is necessary for me to say something in winding up this debate. I think the Corporation has lost nothing at the hands of its defenders here, and I have listened with considerable interest and pleasure to the speeches which have been made during the last two days. I have admitted fully that the Corporation has done good work, and that it is not in respect of its larger schemes that it is most open to adverse criticism, though indeed I remember that even in respect of one of the big schemes, I once myself declared it in this Council years ago to be an 'arsenal of delays.' But there is no doubt that much good work has been done by the Corporation, and I recognise that there are many good men among its Members. I have been intimately acquainted with the affairs of the Municipality from the time when I first came to Calcutta in 1864 or 1865; for during many

years I was myself in direct charge of the affairs of Municipalities as Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Municipal Department. I have been intimately acquainted with all the Chairmen of the Corporation, with the exception of Mr. Harry Lee, and there was not one of those Chairmen whom I have known who have not told me at one time or other that the system on which the Corporation has been constituted is a system which it is almost impossible for any one, were he an angel from heaven, to work satisfactorily. It is perfectly true that some of them have succeeded in getting business done, but if you refer to the debates in this Council and to Sir Henry Harrison's speeches in 1888, you will not find more scathing criticism of the Corporation and the way in which its business is carried on than in those utterances. When, therefore, we came face to face with a possible appalling emergency in the shape of an approaching plague, I felt it necessary to take stock of the situation. I shall not be here, but I wish most solemnly and emphatically to utter a warning to you that you should not assume that the plague will not come to Calcutta. I do not at all like the conditions of things at present in Upper India. Experience shows that the plague may stay with us for years. I hope to God it may not. But it may, and we are in more danger here in Calcutta from the appearance of the plague in Upper India, in the Panjab and the North-Western Provinces, than we are from its existence in Bombay, because the population of those parts of the country is far more migratory. We have already stopped one distinct case of plague coming from the Panjab into Bengal at *Chausa*, and the most stringent orders have been given that any one showing symptoms of the slightest appearance of plague should not be allowed to pass; and the Medical Officers of the Government have been told that I hold them personally responsible that not a single case should escape their vigilance. But you never know when it may come. A case may escape attention, and therefore I say that in Calcutta you must keep your eyes open and put your house in order.

"Now I have said that there are many good men in the Municipality. There are, though I am sorry to say that some of the best of them have deliberately kept themselves aloof from me during the whole time I have been here; but that does not prevent me from recognising their worth and that they have done good work. I have read through the whole of the proceedings of the Corporation for years past, cubic feet of them, the proceedings of General Meetings and of the General Committee and of Special and Sub-Committees, and I have formed my own judgment of the men who are doing good and effective work on these Committees, and it was a pleasure to me to pick out two of them and to ask them to help us in the matter of the building regulations, and I wish now to acknowledge with thanks the work they have done on the Building Commission. Their assistance has been of the utmost importance both to the Hon'ble Mr. Risley and to the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Trevelyan; and if I thought that under this Bill the City was going to be deprived of the services of men like these, I would throw the Bill into the fire. But my own belief is that it is only in this way or by some such scheme that we can give full effect to the worth of men like these. It is perfectly true, as my hon'ble friend Babu Norendra Nath Sen has told us, that we should look at the work done by the Corporation. I see it—I have admitted it; there is a fair outside and an imposing superstructure, but we all know that beneath this there is a good deal of what no Corporation or any one can feel proud of. I am not going to make an attack upon individuals or upon anybody specifically, but we all know that there is underneath the surface, in the present system of working, things which ought not to be. We all know that there are certain classes of candidates who come forward to contest municipal elections, not out of love for the public service, but out of a regard for their own personal advantage. We all know that when it comes to the question of making appointments in the Municipality, there is canvassing, there is jobbery, there is even corruption; and I say that the work of no City can be carried on until there is some effective stop put to iniquities of that description. My theory of the Bill, the cardinal principle of the Bill, the essence of it, is that we must leave the ordinary every-day work of the City in one man's hands. That is a principle which, as the Hon'ble Mr. Risley has told us, is recognised in the more advanced Cities of America, where there is less corruption than in some of the other Cities. That is the principle recognised in Bombay, and which I now desire to see recognised here. If that is once secured, all the rest appears to be a

matter of arrangement and detail. In theory under the present Act all this power is given to the Chairman, but you have not done that. You have insisted on interference by the appointment of Committees and Sub-Committees. You talk of your Chairman constantly breaking down. I say you do your best to kill them; both Mr. Williams and Mr. Bright, and others beside them have been broken down by the way in which the work has to be done and re-done. It is *not*, however, owing to complaints by either Mr. Williams or Mr. Bright that this Bill has taken its origin. That is an entire mistake. Mr. Bright is rather proud of the way in which he was getting on with the Commissioners; but I have seen him coming staggering into my room after a day's work quite exhausted, and when I asked him what he had been doing, he said he had been engaged sitting with a Committee for four hours at the end of his day's work. I do not want to make the Chairman absolute. I want him to have the power to do the every-day work of the Corporation, but I have carefully provided that every Member of the Corporation capable of doing good work should have the opportunity of doing so, and if the Select Committee find in going through this Bill that the actual distribution of power as it stands at present can be improved, it will be open to them to make a recommendation to that effect and to introduce emendations in the Bill for that purpose. I shall say one word about a thing which struck me yesterday very forcibly with reference to what fell from the Hon'ble Member for the Corporation. He said something about a Member of the Calcutta Trades Association who was a Member of some Committee and who said how admirably they had got on there. Why on earth then should not the popular representatives also get on in the General Committee? Is it supposed that every question which will come before the General Committee will be a question between Natives and Europeans? Surely, even if they are popular representatives, they should not treat business questions in that way. There is no reason to suppose that there will be any predominant majority in the General Committee. Men of all classes will, I hope, unite then to do the work of the town in a businesslike way. There need not be and should not be any faction fights. I hope that the selections of men to serve on the General Committee will be such that every man who is a member of that body will show himself willing to do good work and assist in considering what is brought forward, and he will find that he will be able to work with his European colleagues and the Government nominees just as if they too had been chosen by popular representation.

"I do not think I need go into details, but I just wish to notice one point as to what has been said about the domination of minorities. Of course Hon'ble Members refer entirely to numerical minorities, the democratic notion of majorities and minorities. I have no hesitation in saying that there is no country in the world where that principle applies with less propriety than in India. We have not to count heads, but to weigh interests in deciding on the best form of City Government. The figures which the Hon'ble Mr. Risley has quoted show that, however much you may talk and write about it, the elective system in Calcutta is not a popular system. It is a system which appeals to very limited numbers, and to talk about the poor rate-payers taking an interest in this Bill because they will be oppressed under it is abject nonsense. In fact they will have much less to pay under this Bill than they have now.

"Now as regards the representation on the Committee of the trade and commerce of the town, I am happy to know that we have behind us the support of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State, I may say, takes a very real interest in this measure, and on the very day I was leaving London I received a note by special messenger assuring me of his strong support in carrying out any measure necessary for the well-being of Calcutta, and he writes in his Despatch to the Government of India:—

'I accept the view taken by your Government and by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal that some change is required in the Calcutta Municipal Law with a view to strengthening the Executive; and I approve of the proposal that the bodies which represent the trade of Calcutta should have a voice on the General Committee (or Town Council) of 12 Members, which will be the Executive body of the new Municipality.'